PRESENTED BY KAZUO KOIKE & KAZUO KAMIMURA

LADY SNOWBLOOD

VOL. 1

修羅雪姫

LADY SNOWBLOOD

THE DEEP-SEATED GRUDGE PT. 1 STORY BY KAZUO KOIKE ART BY KAZUO KAMIMURA

LADY SNOW BLOOD

修羅雪姫

VOLUME ONE: THE DEEP-SEATED GRUDGE PT. 1

STORY BY KAZUO KOIKE

ART BY KAZUO KAMIMURA

LADY SNOW BLOOD

by KAZUO KOIKE & KAZUO KAMIMURA

VOL. 1

THE DEEP-SEATED GRUDGE PT. 1

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY **KAZUO KAMIMURA**

ORIGINAL COVER DESIGN BY **G HIGH LLC.**

translation
NAOMI KOKUBO
with assistance by JEFF CARLSON

lettering
STUDIO CUTIE

publisher
MIKE RICHARDSON

editor
TIM ERVIN

collection designer
JOSHUA ELLIOTT

art director
LIA RIBACCHI

LADY SNOWBLOOD VOL. 1: THE DEEP-SEATED GRUDGE PT. 1

SYURAYUKI HIME Lady Snowblood © 1972 by Kazuo Koike and Kazuo Kamimura. All rights reserved. Originally published in Japan in 2004 by Koike Shoin Publishing Co., Ltd. English translation rights arranged with Soeisha, Inc. Translation and adaptation, and all other material unless otherwise specified, TM & © 2005 Dark Horse Comics, Inc. No portion of this publication may be reproduced, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of the copyright holders. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental. Dark Horse Manga™ is a trademark of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Dark Horse Comics® is a trademark of Dark Horse Comics, Inc., registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved.

Published by Dark Horse Manga, a division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. in association with Soeisha, Inc.

Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 S.E. Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

www.darkhorse.com

First edition: September 2005
ISBN 978-1-59307-385-5

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Printed at Lebonfon Printing, Inc., Val-d'Or, QC, Canada

To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 EPISODE 1:
SUMIDA RIVER LOINCLOTH CUTTING BOARD

43 EPISODE 2:
STYLISH WOMAN AND UMBRELLA OVER RAIN OF BLOOD

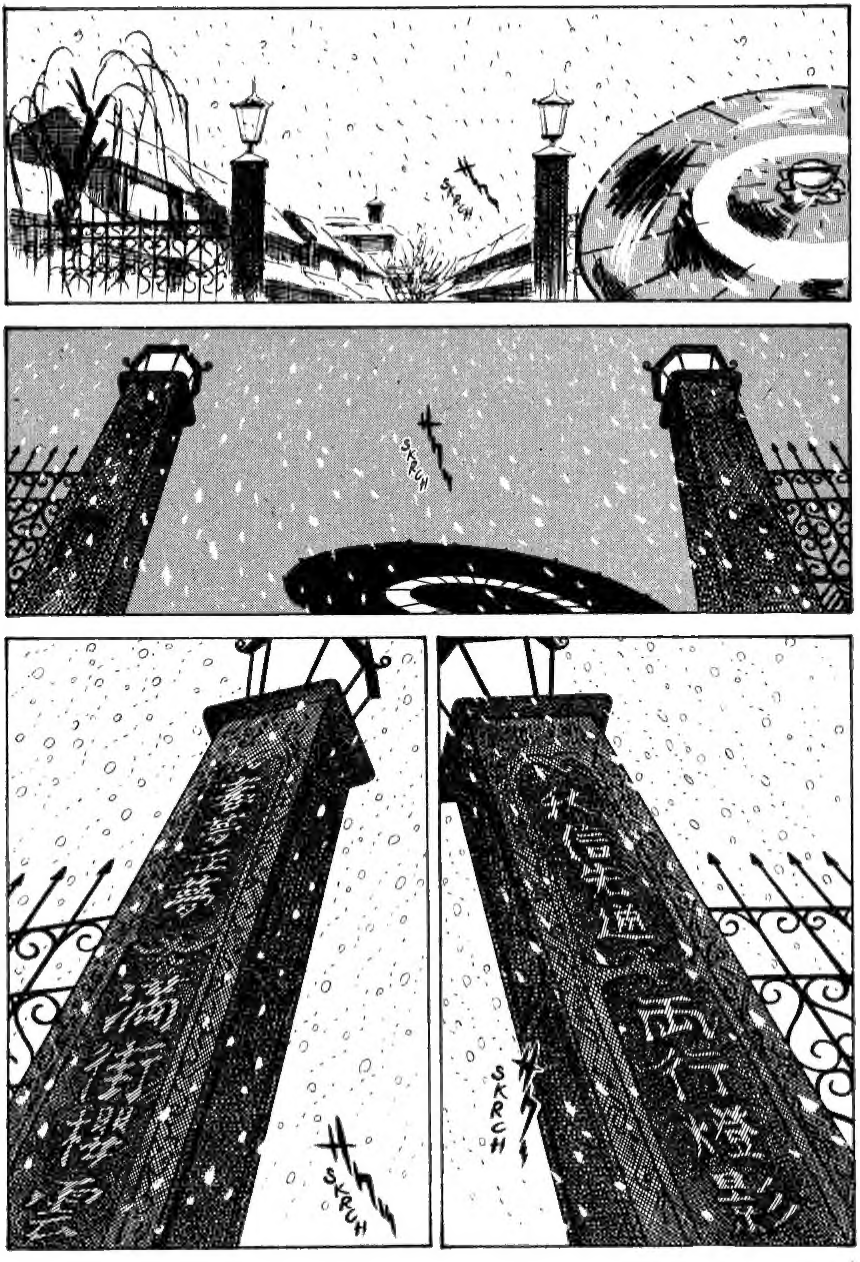
83 EPISODE 3:
LOVE, HATE, STRING OF BLOOD, AND CONFESSION

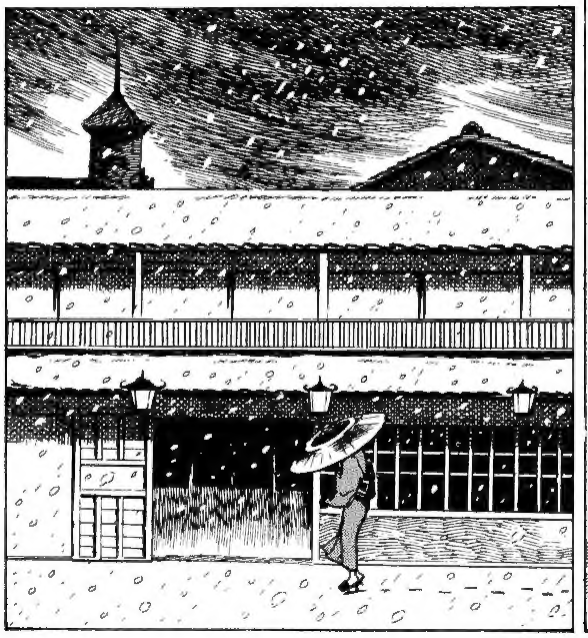
123 EPISODE 4:
DEAD CHERRY BLOSSOMS AND THE
DANCE OF SHORT SLEEVE WITH WHITE BLADE

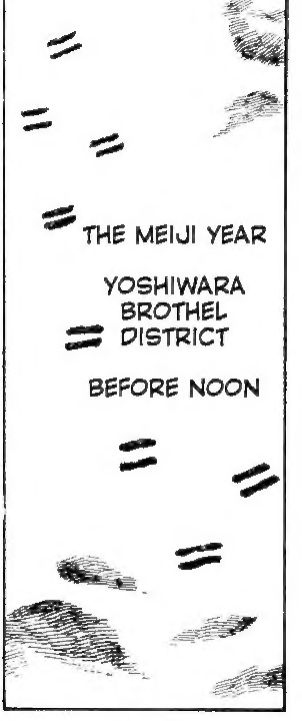
163 EPISODE 5:
ROKUMEIKAN MURDER PANORAMA

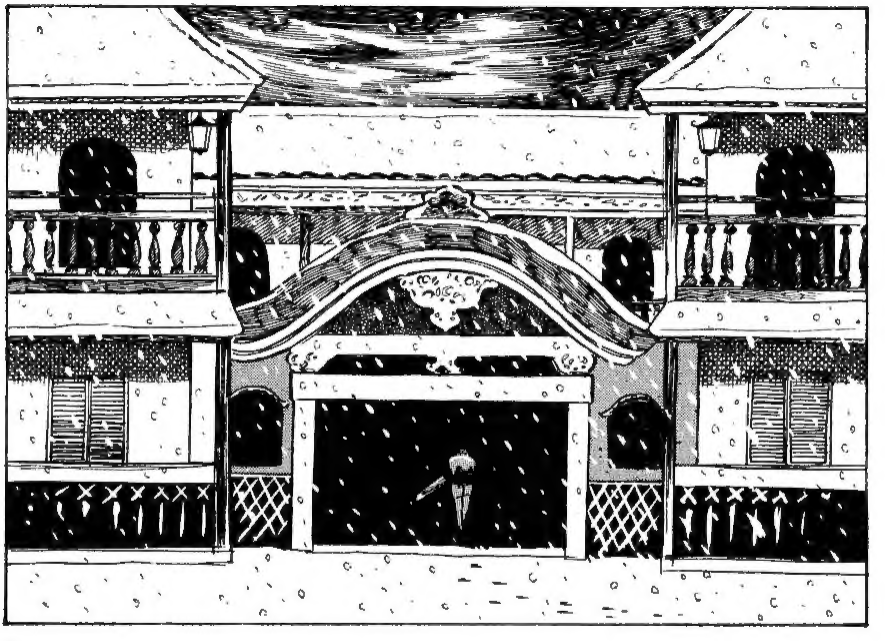
外題之一 隅田川湯文字俎板

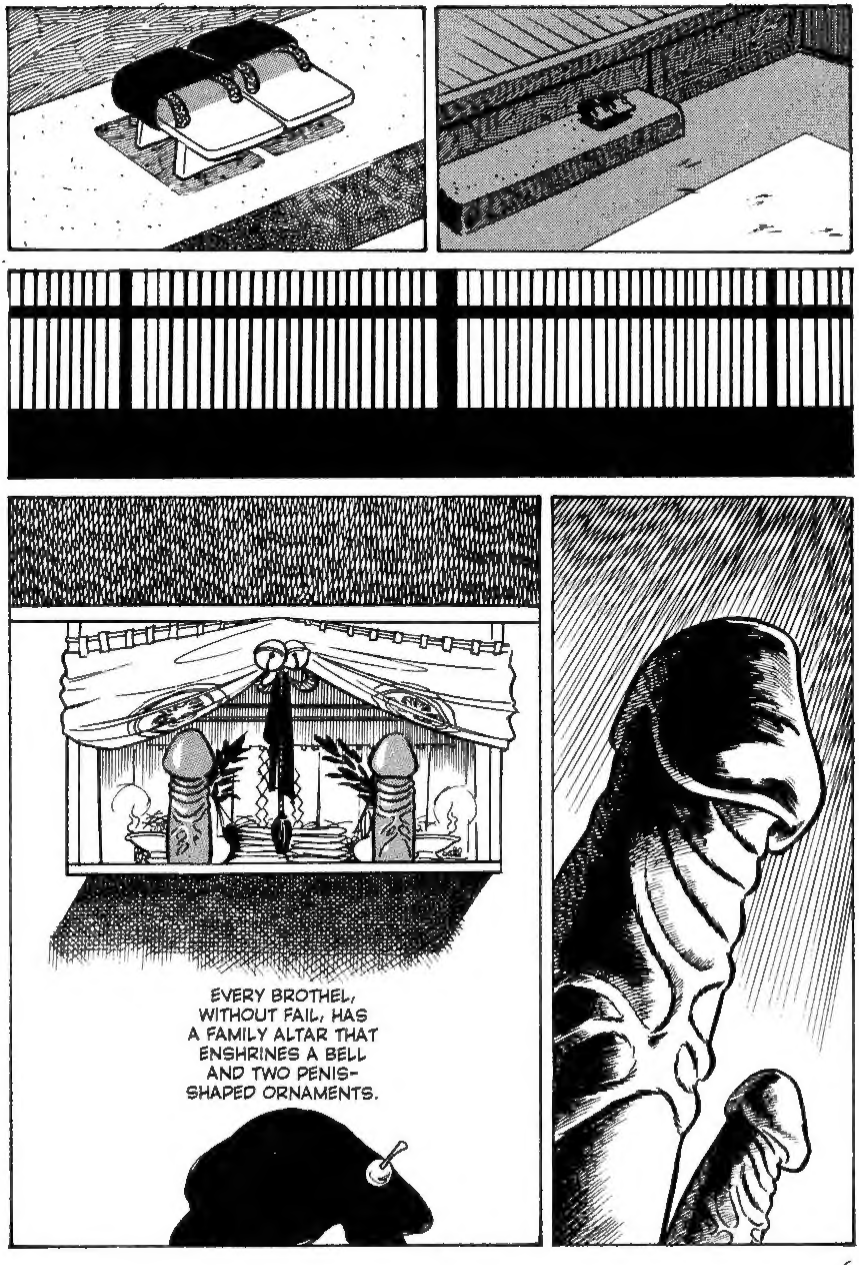
EPISODE 1
SUMIDA RIVER
LOINCLOTH
CUTTING
BOARD


SKRUH
SKRUH
SKRUH
SKRCH

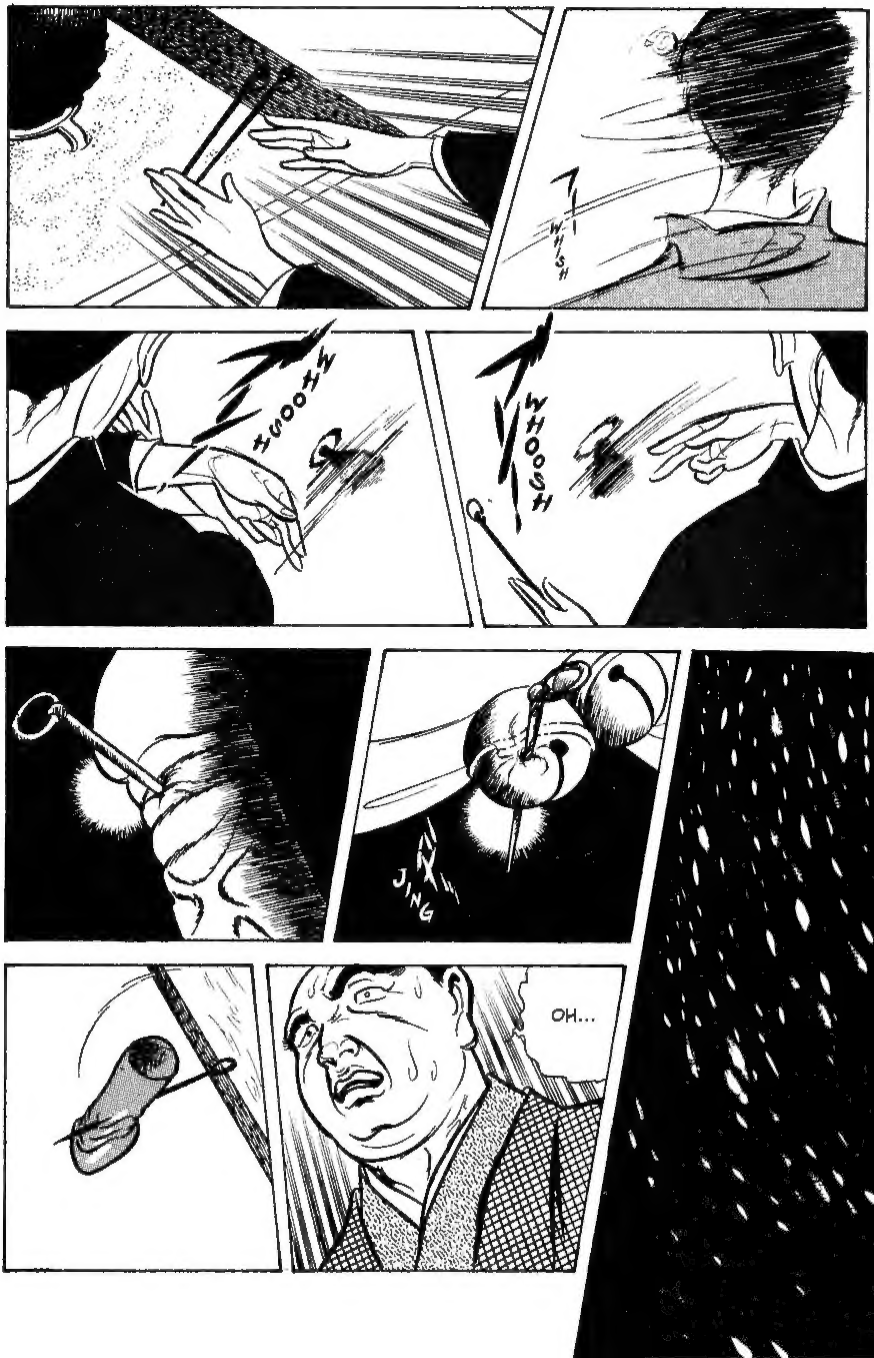


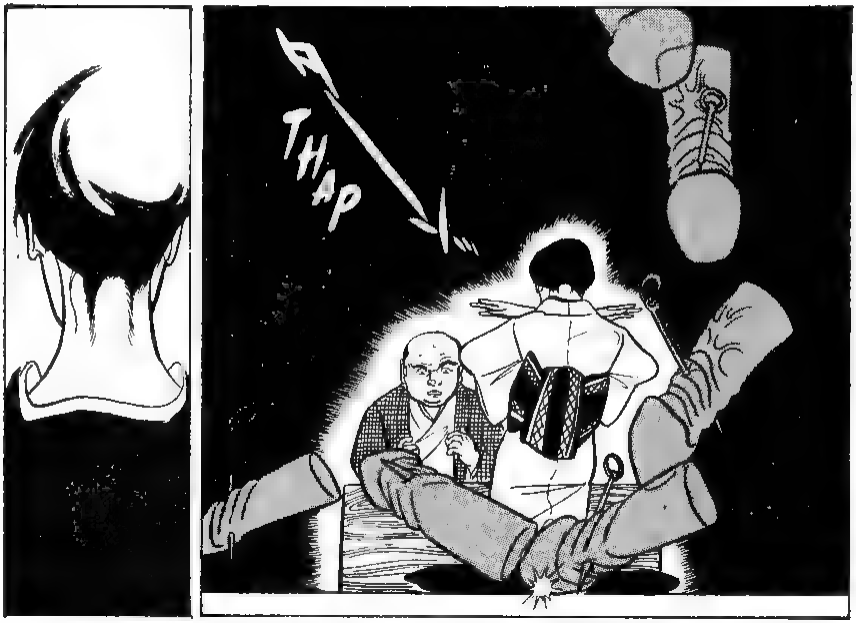

THE MEIJI YEAR
YOSHIWARA
BROTHEL
DISTRICT
BEFORE NOON



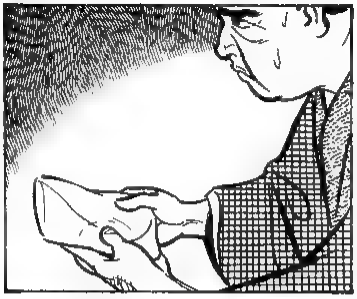

EVERY BROTHEL, WITHOUT FAIL, HAS A FAMILY ALTAR THAT ENSHRINES A BELL AND TWO PENIS-SHAPED ORNAMENTS.

A THOUSAND YEN IS TOO MUCH...
W-WAIT... I'LL PAY. I'LL PAY A THOUSAND YEN.
YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT HE ALWAYS CARRIES A PISTOL WITH HIM.
DAISHICHI MUKOUJIMA IS A MAN WHO SHOWS HIS FACE TO NO ONE. HIS WHEREABOUTS ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO PIN DOWN.
PAYING A THOUSAND YEN IN ADVANCE IS...
I'VE HEARD YOUR REPUTATION, BUT I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY SEEN HOW GOOD YOU ARE.

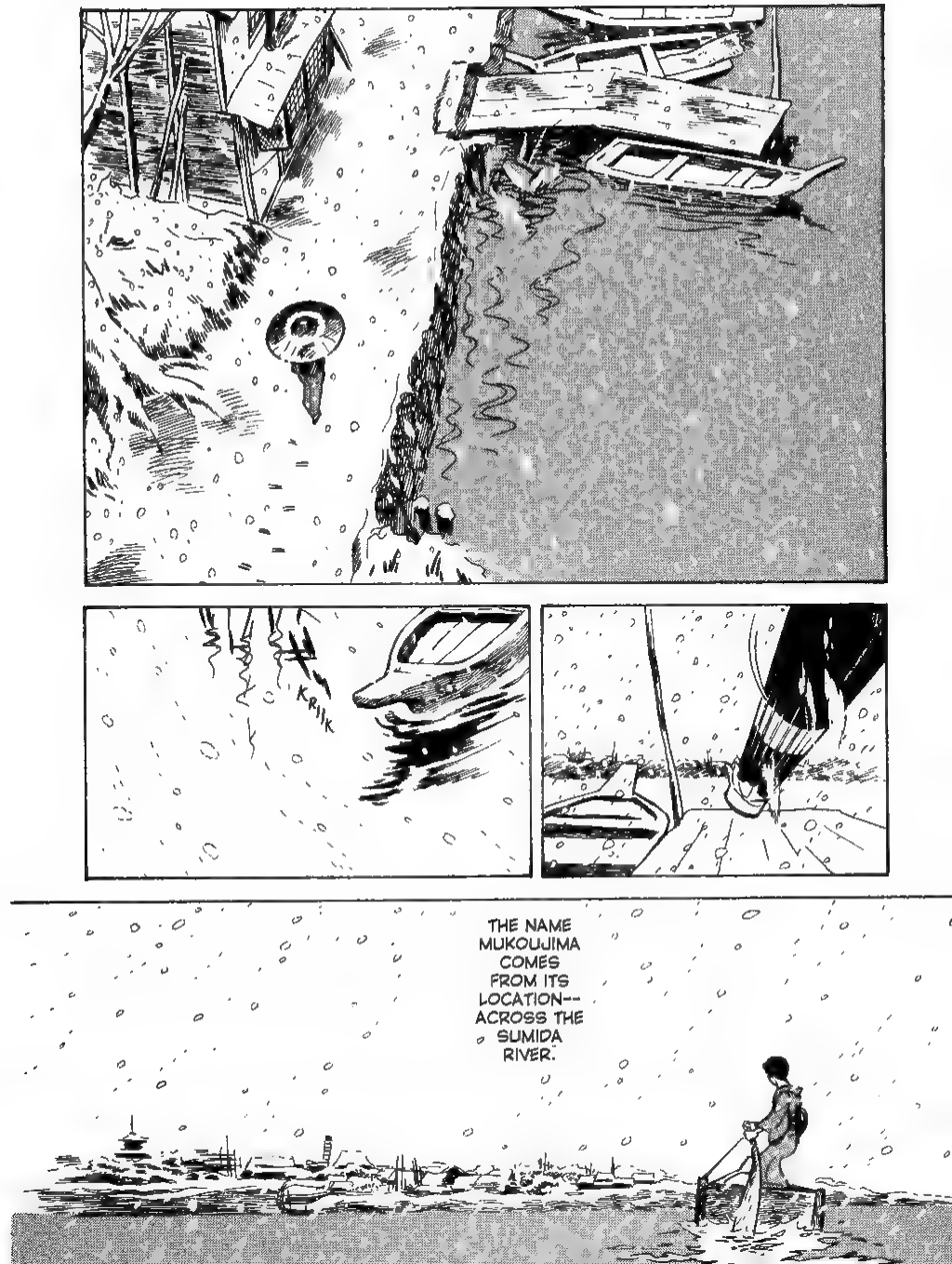

WHISH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
JING
OH...



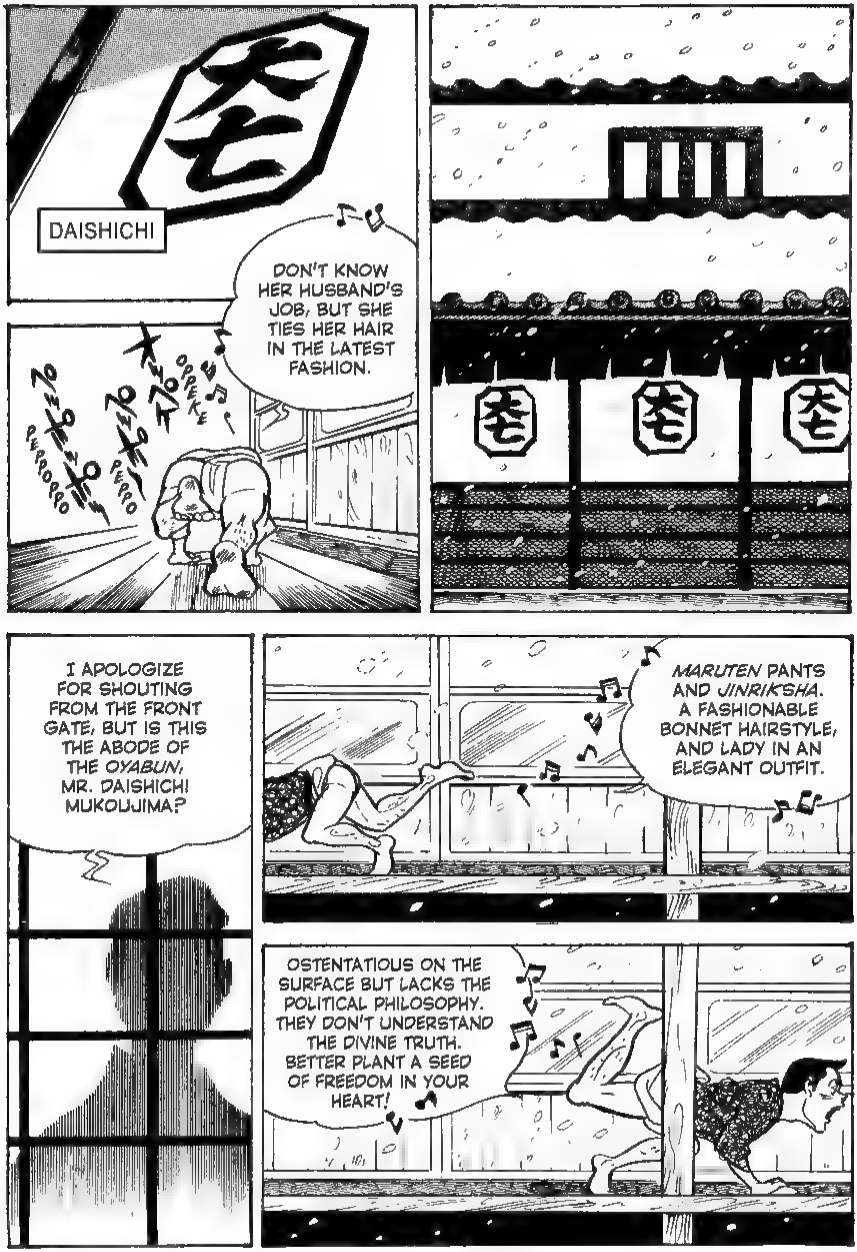
AT THE TIME, 150KG OF RICE WAS 6 *YEN* AND 48 *SEN*. THE MONTHLY SALARY OF A POLICE OFFICER WAS SIX *YEN*; AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL EARNED 13 *YEN*; AND HIROFUMI ITO, WHO WAS THE THEN HIGHEST PAID INDIVIDUAL, EARNED 2,000 *YEN*.



THE CONSUMER PRICE FOR 150KG OF FREE-TRADE RICE IN 1971 WAS 30,000 *YEN*, WHICH IS ABOUT 4,629 TIMES THE 6 *YEN* AND 48 *SEN*. THAT MEANS THE VALUE OF THE 2,000 *YEN* EARNED BY HIROFUMI ITO IS EQUIVALENT TO 928,000 *YEN* IN 1971.


KRIIK
THE NAME MUKOUJIMA COMES FROM ITS LOCATION-- ACROSS THE SUMIDA RIVER.

THEY'RE LINING UP DOZENS OF CUSTOM-BUILT ENTERTAINMENT BOATS ALONG THE SUMIDA RIVER WITH EVERY INTENTION OF CHALLENGING YOSHIWARA.
KRIK
THAT BASTARD DAISHICHI CAME UP WITH THE OUTRAGEOUS IDEA THAT HAVING SEX ON A SWAYING BOAT WOULD BRING ULTIMATE PLEASURE TO MEN--- AND HE MEANS TO MAKE IT INTO A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS.
KREE
NOT ONLY THAT, HE'S SCHMOOZING WITH MR. ITO, THE POLITICIAN, WHO LOVES TO FOOL AROUND WITH WOMEN. OBVIOUSLY, DAISHICHI IS MANEUVERING BEHIND THE SCENES. IT'S BIG TROUBLE.
EVEN WITHOUT HIM LAUNCHING THAT NEW LINE OF BUSINESS, YOSHIWARA IS ALREADY LOSING CUSTOMERS TO MUKOUJIMA'S ATTRACTIONS.
KREEK
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP.
KRRK
HE'S ONE OF THE TOP FIVE GAMBLERS OF THE KANTO REGION, AND NO ONE CAN GET AT HIM SO EASILY.


DAISHICHI
DON'T KNOW HER HUSBAND'S JOB, BUT SHE TIES HER HAIR IN THE LATEST FASHION.
I APOLOGIZE FOR SHOUTING FROM THE FRONT GATE, BUT IS THIS THE ABODE OF THE OYABUN, MR. DAISHICHI MUKOUJIMA?
MARUTEN PANTS AND JINRIKSHA. A FASHIONABLE BONNET HAIRSTYLE, AND LADY IN AN ELEGANT OUTFIT.
OSTENTATIOUS ON THE SURFACE BUT LACKS THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DIVINE TRUTH. BETTER PLANT A SEED OF FREEDOM IN YOUR HEART!

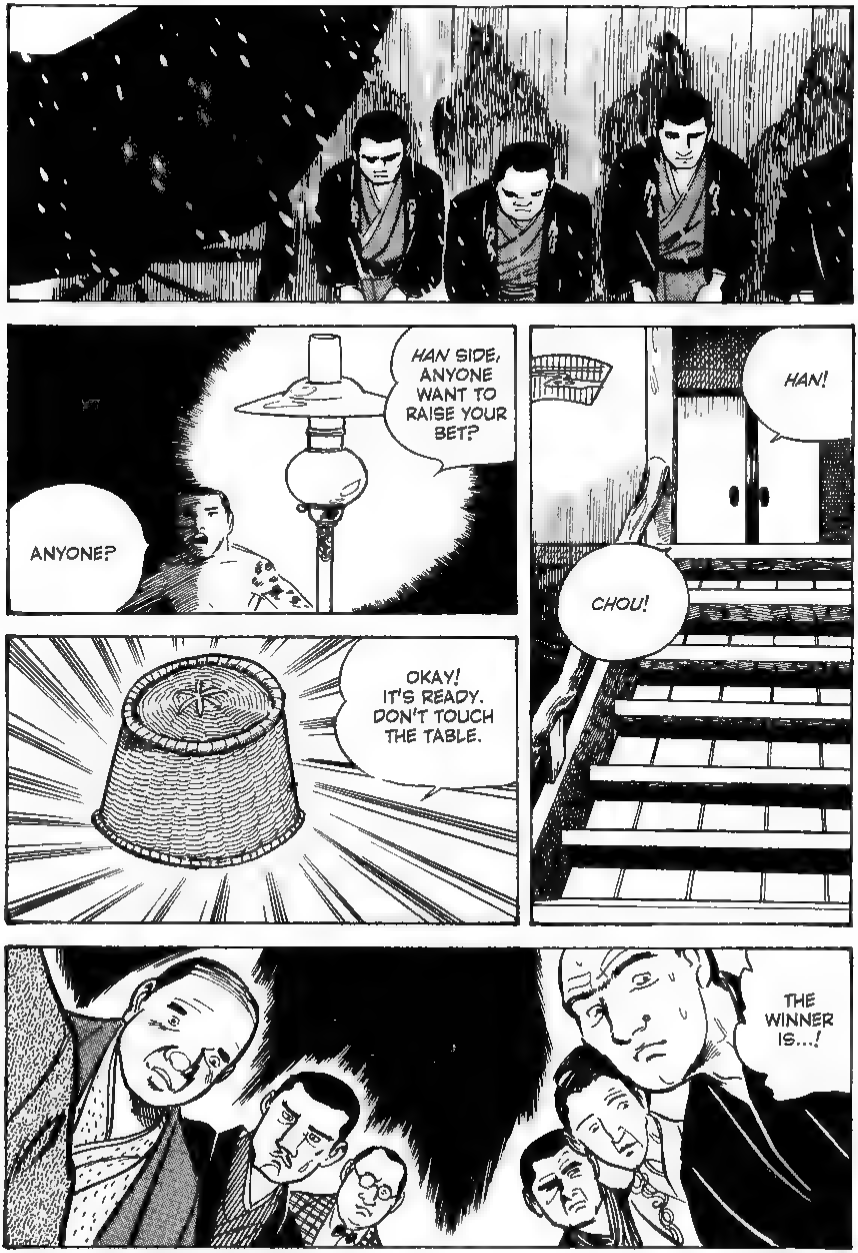
THUMP
THUMP
H-HUH ...?
THANK YOU. I ACCEPT YOUR PERMISSION TO ENTER.
Y-YES, YOU ARE CORRECT. P-PLEASE COME IN.
TH-THUMP
SHIK
TIK
TIK
TIK

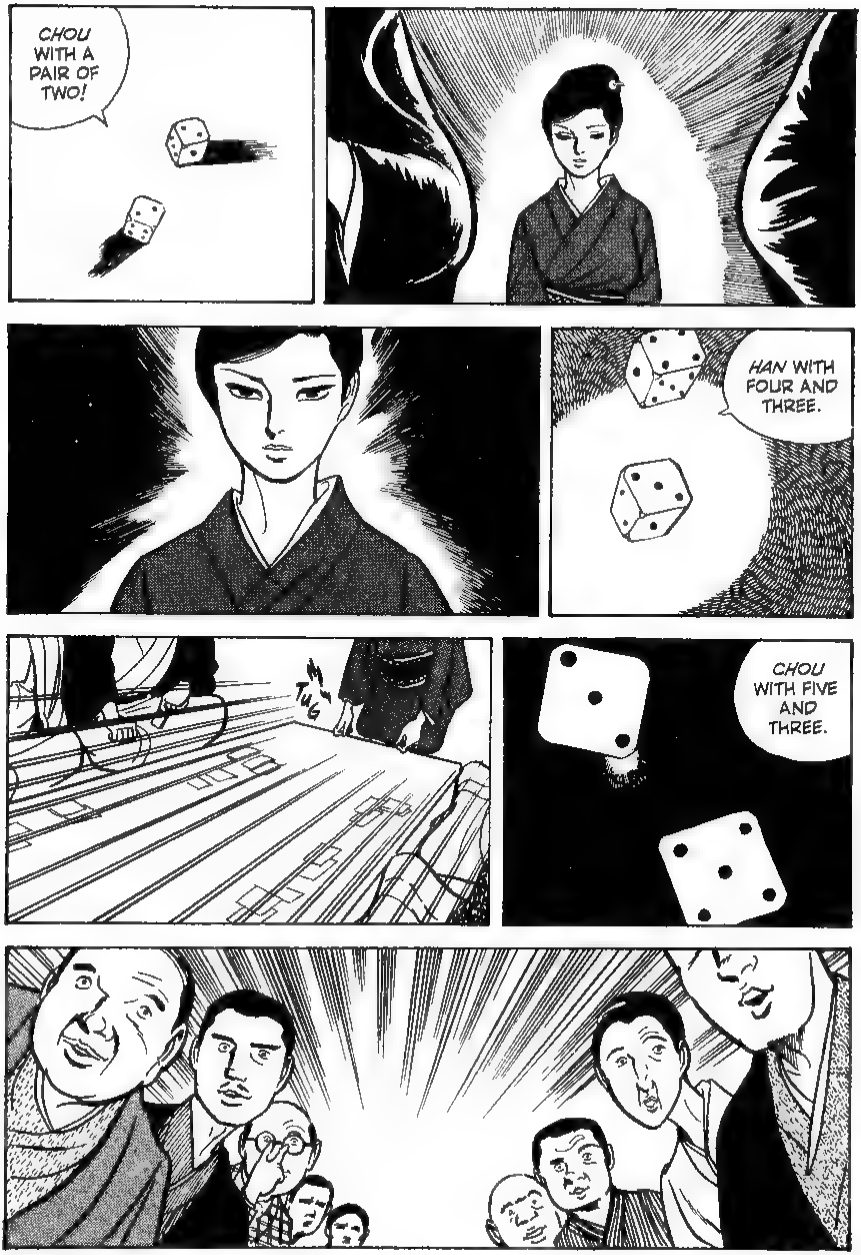
PLEASE LET ME MEET YOUR MASTER IN PERSON.
BLUSH

T-TAKE A SEAT... PLEASE
PLEASE LET ME MEET YOUR MASTER
P-PLEASE WAIT
I STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN I APOLOGIZE PLEASE LET ME !NTRODUCE MYSELF
M-MAYBE IT !SN'T PROPER FOR ME TO HEAR YOU OUT. BUT YOU ASK EARNESTLY PLEASE PARDON ME IF I END UP RELAYING WHAT YOU TELL ME ERRONEOUSLY TO MY MASTER
IT IS NOT RIGHT FOR ME TO ASK YOUR MASTER'S AUDIENCE WITHOUT FIRST NTRODUCING MYSELF PLEASE HEAR ME OUT

I APOLOGIZE FOR ASKING YOUR AUDIENCE THROUGH A LAD IN YOUR SERVICE.
THANK YOU FOR MEETING ME SO QUICKLY.
I'VE NEVER MET YOU IN PERSON BEFORE.
I AM ORIGINALLY FROM...

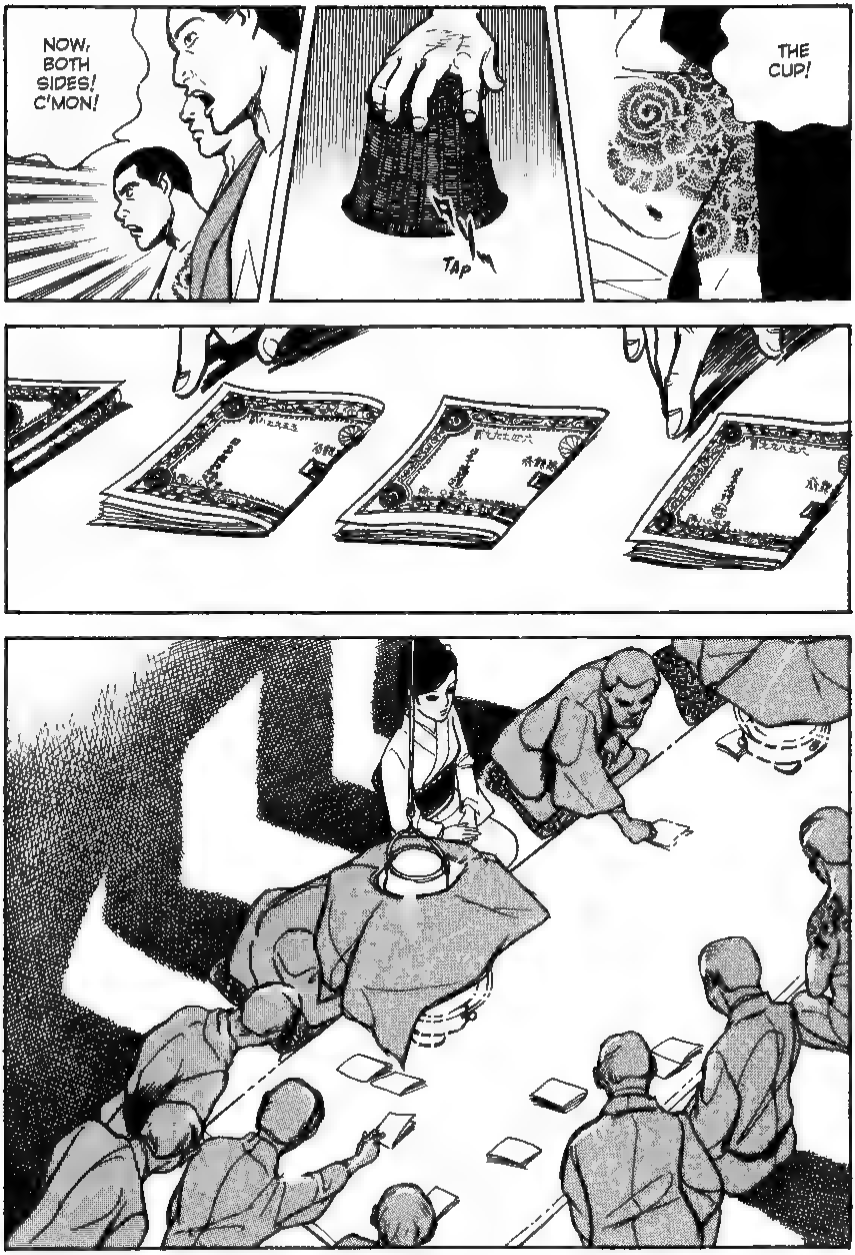
刑事课
GAMBLING HOUSE

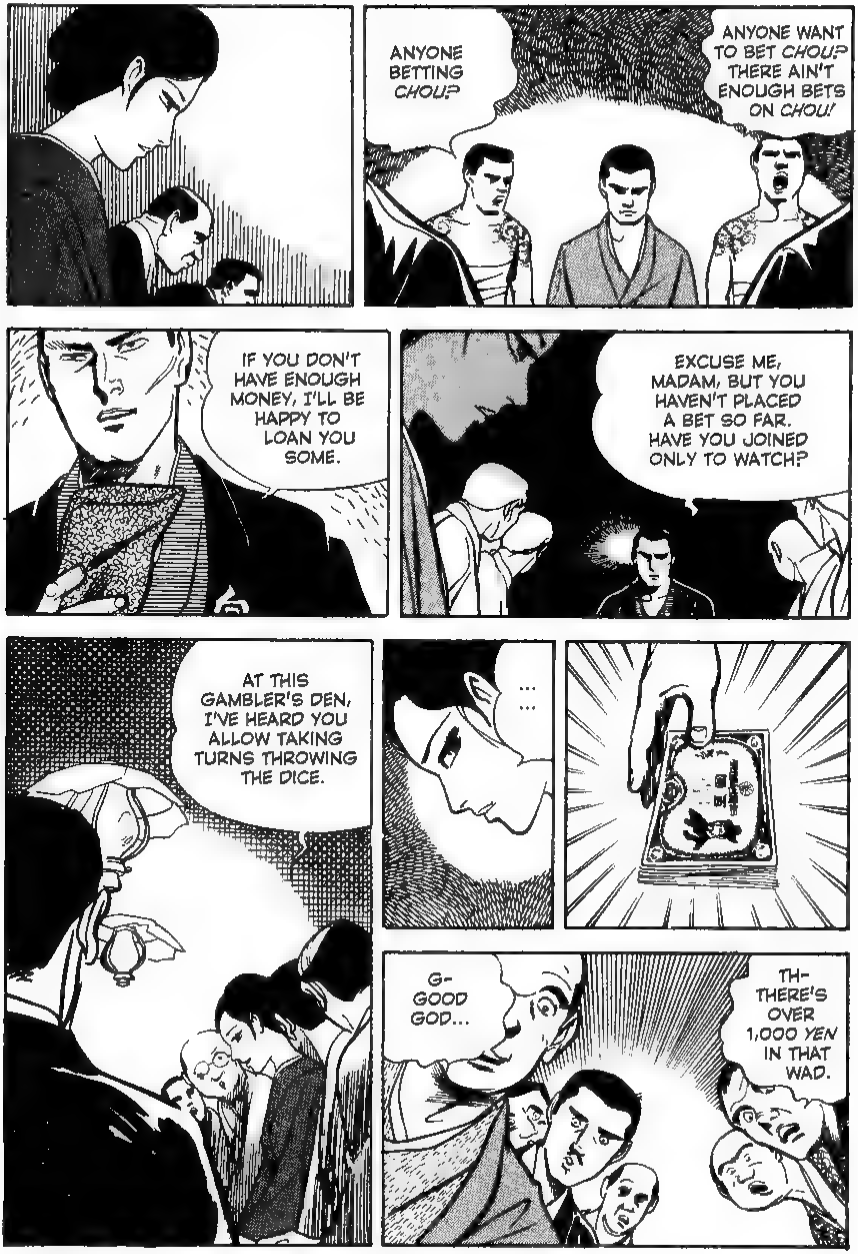

HAN SIDE, ANYONE WANT TO RAISE YOUR BET?
ANYONE?
HAN!
CHOU!
OKAY! IT'S READY. DON'T TOUCH THE TABLE.
THE WINNER IS...!


CHOU WITH A PAIR OF TWO!
HAN WITH FOUR AND THREE.
TING
CHOU WITH FIVE AND THREE.

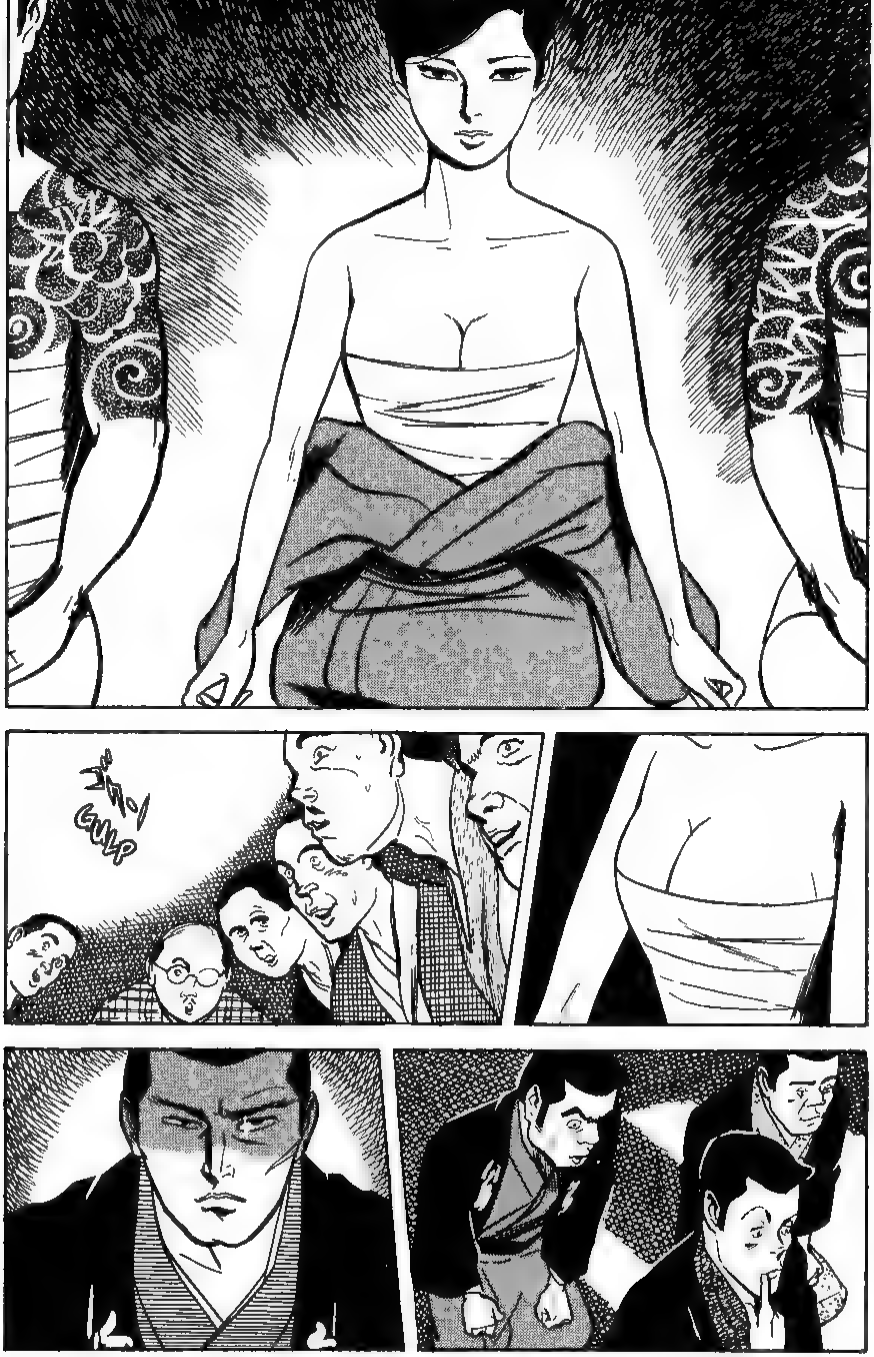
P-
PLEASE!
I JUST CAME IN, BUT I REFRAINED FROM JOINING THE BET. HOWEVER, I SEE THAT IT'S *CHOU* WITH FIVE AND THREE. BEFORE THAT IT WAS *HAN* WITH FOUR AND THREE. THEY'RE BOTH GOOD ROLLS, AND I FEEL I MAY JOIN YOU AT THIS POINT IF YOU'D ALLOW ME.

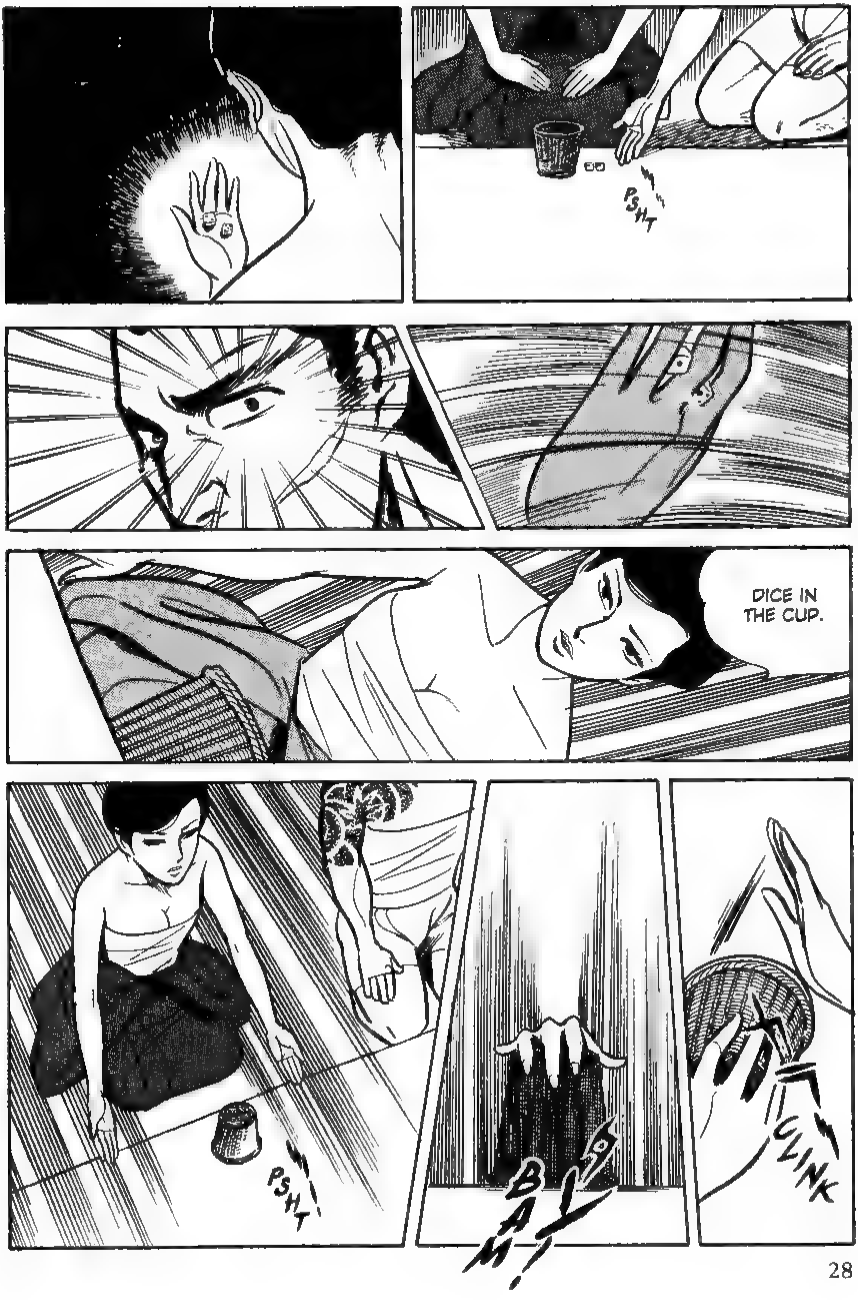
SHE'S FROM SANSHU, HAS NO *OYABUN* AND NO *DAIMON*. HER NAME IS OYUKI. ISN'T SHE A *GOOD* BITCH? MAKES ME WANNA SCREW HER!
IS THAT THE WOMAN WHO CAME TO VISIT US?
I BET SHE ISN'T JUST SOME LITTLE STREET RAT.
SHE JOINED THE GAMBLE WITH PROPER FORMALITY.


NOW, BOTH SIDES! C'MON!
TAP
THE CUP!


ANYONE BETTING *CHOU*?
ANYONE WANT TO BET *CHOU*? THERE AIN'T ENOUGH BETS ON *CHOU*!
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY, I'LL BE HAPPY TO LOAN YOU SOME.
EXCUSE ME, MADAM, BUT YOU HAVEN'T PLACED A BET SO FAR. HAVE YOU JOINED ONLY TO WATCH?
AT THIS GAMBLER'S DEN, I'VE HEARD YOU ALLOW TAKING TURNS THROWING THE DICE.
...
...
G-GOOD GOD...
TH-THERE'S OVER 1,000 *YEN* IN THAT WAD.

WHAT A DARING SPIRIT. ALL RIGHT THEN. LET ME SEE HOW YOU THROW THE DICE.
WILL THAT BE OKAY WITH YOU?
I PREFER TO BE ON THE DEALER'S SIDE AND THROW THE DICE THAN TO SIT ON THE BETTING SIDE.

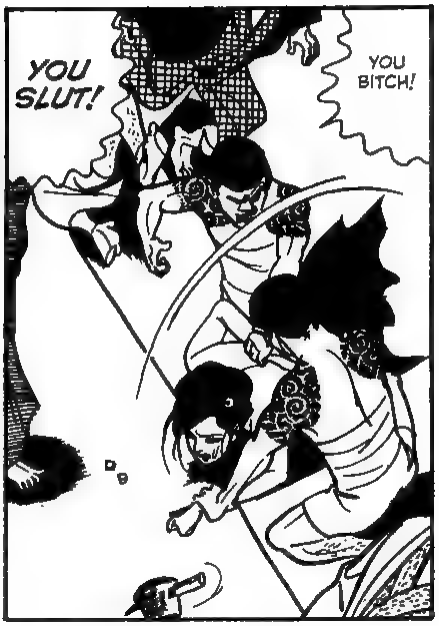

GULP


PSHT
DICE IN THE CUP.
PSHT!
BAM!
CLINK

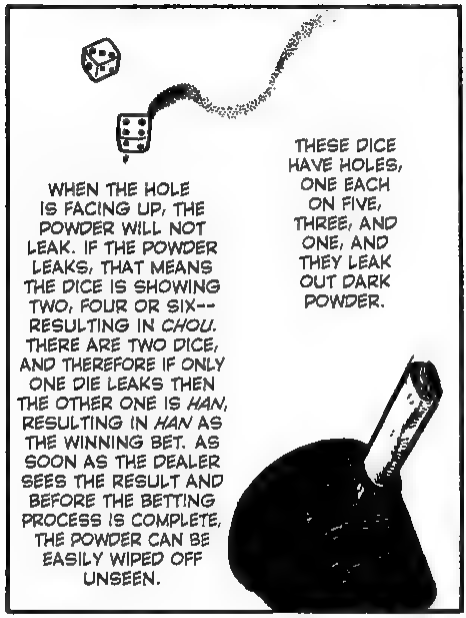
HAN!
THE WINNER IS--
I'LL TAKE IT!
TWO HUNDRED YEN ON HAN!
HA
HOLD IT!
WOOSH!
THOD

STOMP
SKRAGH SKRAGH
AS I THOUGHT. THEY'RE POWDERING DICE.

URAA


YOU SLUT!
YOU BITCH!

YOU LOOK LIKE BODHISATTVA ON THE SURFACE BUT INSIDE YOU'RE *YASHA*. DESPITE YOUR PRETTY FACE, YOU PLAY DIRTY.

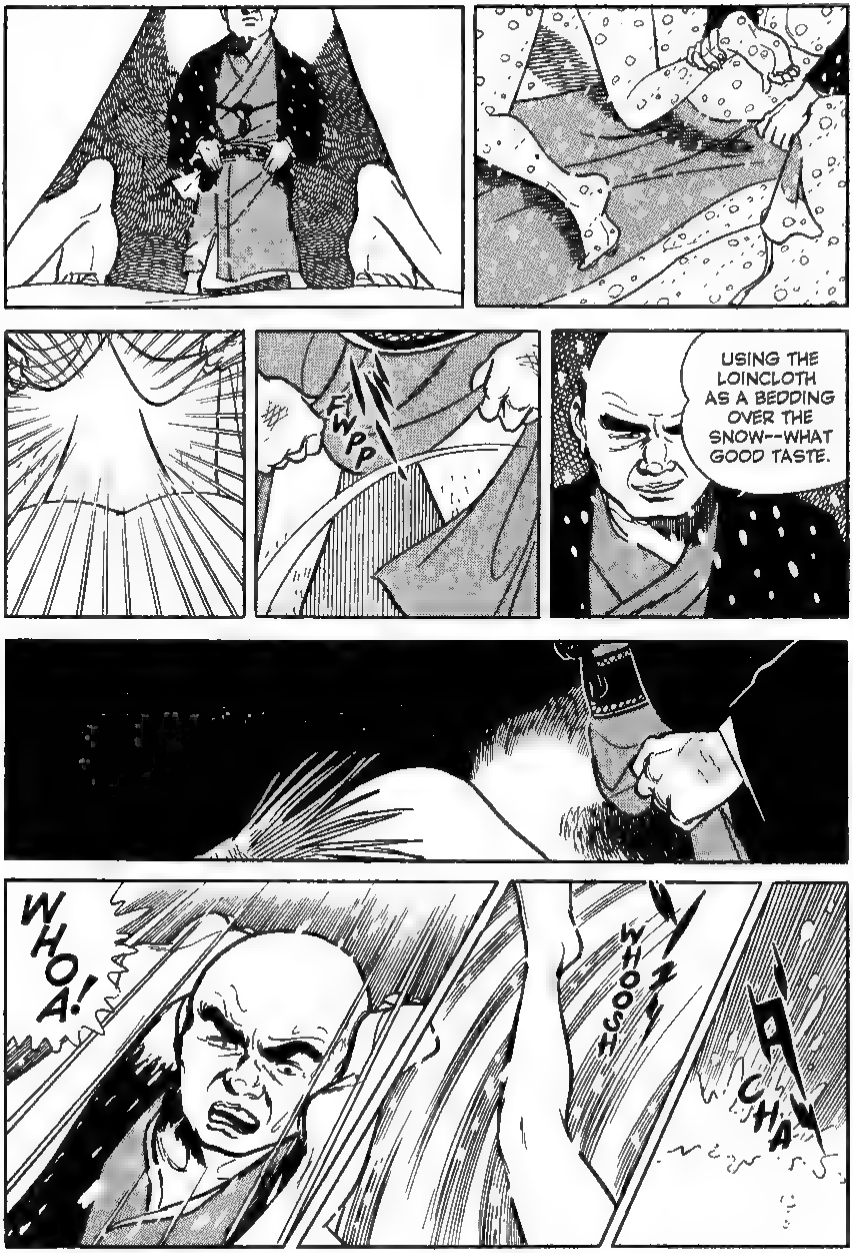

THESE DICE HAVE HOLES, ONE EACH ON FIVE, THREE, AND ONE; AND THEY LEAK OUT DARK POWDER.
WHEN THE HOLE IS FACING UP, THE POWDER WILL NOT LEAK. IF THE POWDER LEAKS, THAT MEANS THE DICE IS SHOWING TWO, FOUR OR SIX--RESULTING IN *CHOU*. THERE ARE TWO DICE, AND THEREFORE IF ONLY ONE DIE LEAKS THEN THE OTHER ONE IS *HAN*, RESULTING IN *HAN* AS THE WINNING BET. AS SOON AS THE DEALER SEES THE RESULT AND BEFORE THE BETTING PROCESS IS COMPLETE, THE POWDER CAN BE EASILY WIPED OFF UNSEEN.

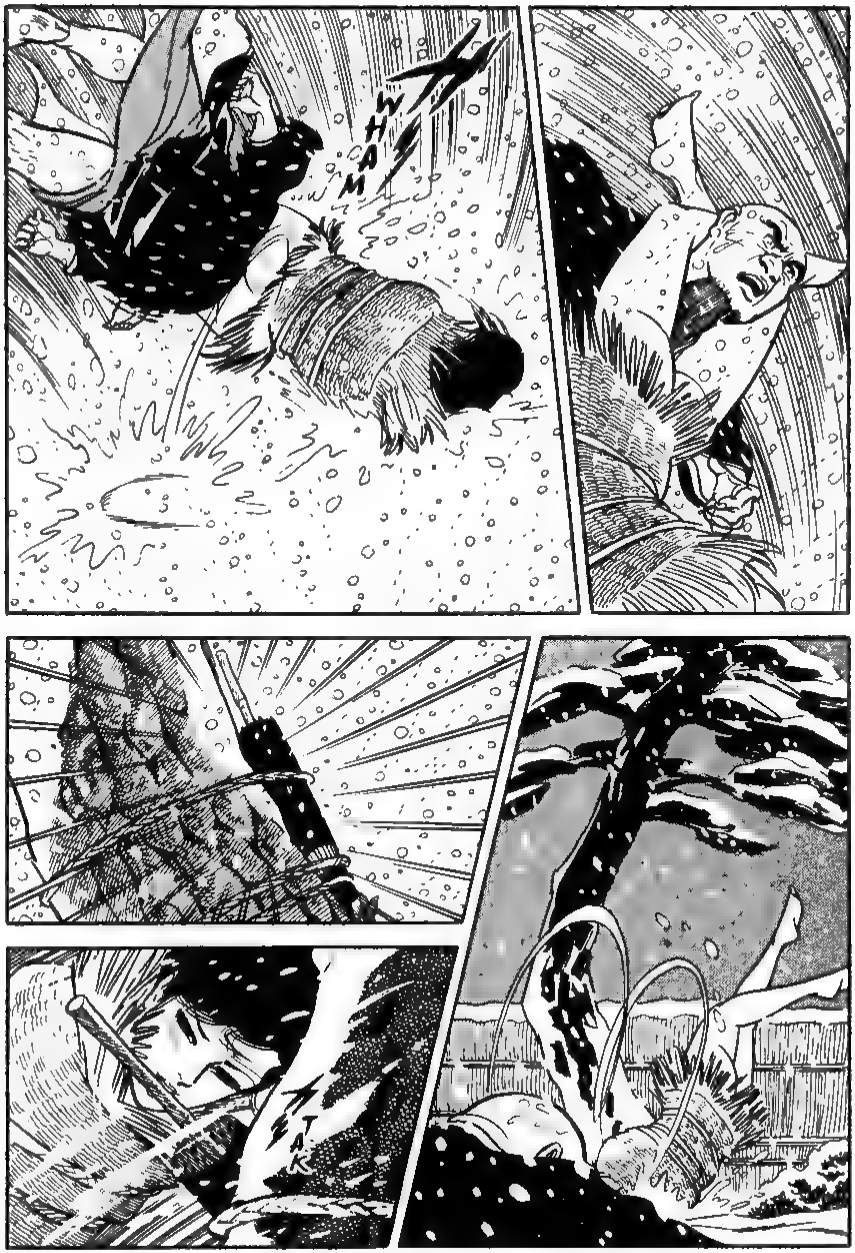
HEY, YOU *DO* KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO PLAY TRICKS AT DAISHICHI MUKOUJIMA'S GAMBLING DEN, RIGHT?

UHH!

HMM, DAMN GOOD-LOOKING BITCH, HUH?
LET ME FINISH HER OFF BEFORE WE THROW HER DOWN THE SUMIDA RIVER.

BWAF
THERE'S NO WAY OUT FOR A BITCH IN A BAG.
WSSHH


FWPP
USING THE LOINCLOTH AS A BEDDING OVER THE SNOW--WHAT GOOD TASTE.
WHOA!
WHOOSH
CHA


WHAM
TAK

SNIK
ZA
SHING
SHAAA
OHH!
NO!

BITCH!
WSH
WSH
WSH
WSH
SPLAT

WISH
SPLTT
SPLTT
SPLTT
SHUPP

YOU BITCH... YOU LET ME SEE YOUR TRICK ON PURPOSE... TO GET TO OUR OYABUN...
SPLAT

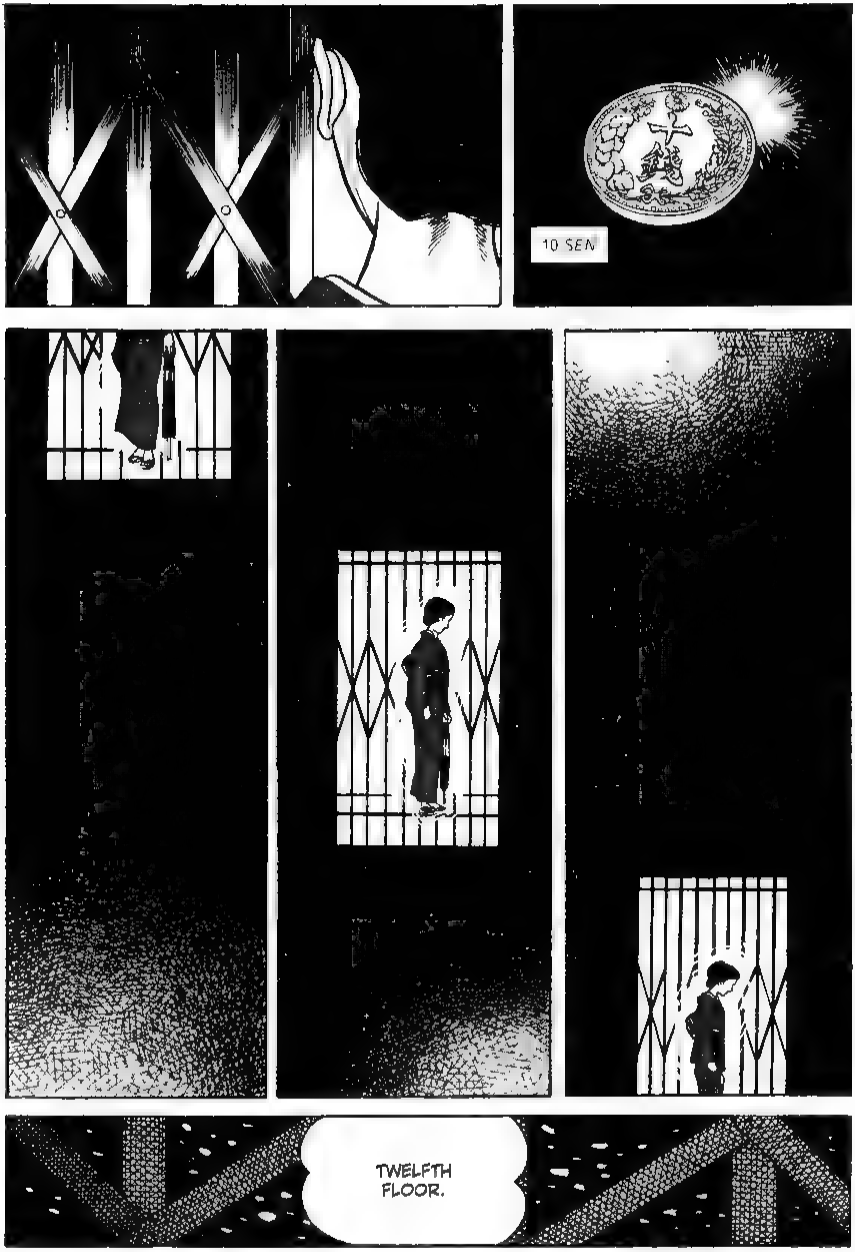
!
BLAM!
TSH
LADY SNOW-BLOOD...
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?

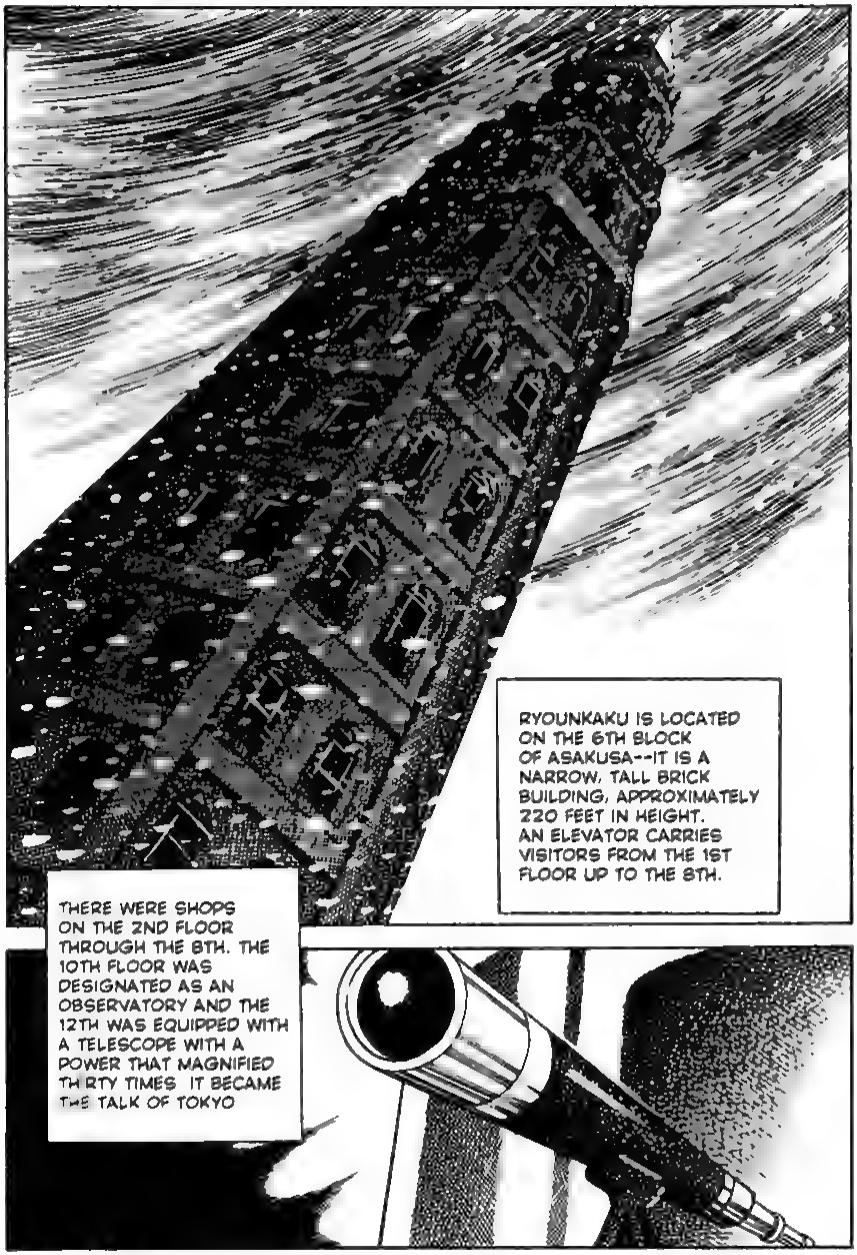
■ SUMIDA RIVER LOINCLOTH CUTTING BOARD / THE END ■

外題之二
女伊達血雨傘
(おんなだてちさめがさ)

EPISODE 2
STYLISH WOMAN AND
UMBRELLA OVER RAIN
OF BLOOD.

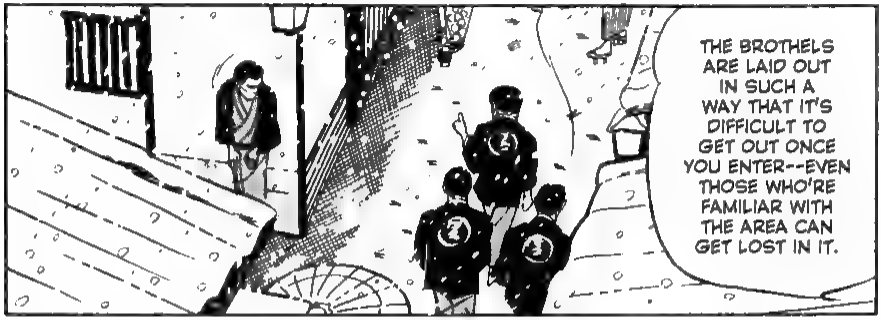
入場料
大人一人一銭
子供一四銭
ENTRANCE FEE
ADULT - 8 SEN
CHILD - 4 SEN

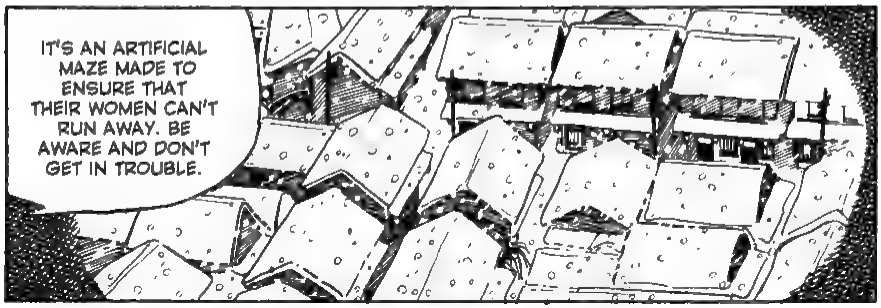

10 SEN
TWELFTH FLOOR.

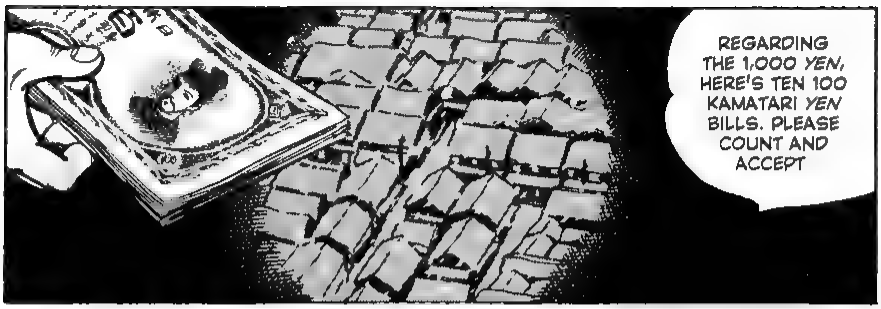

RYOUNKAKU IS LOCATED ON THE 6TH BLOCK OF ASAKUSA--IT IS A NARROW, TALL BRICK BUILDING, APPROXIMATELY 220 FEET IN HEIGHT. AN ELEVATOR CARRIES VISITORS FROM THE 1ST FLOOR UP TO THE 8TH.
THERE WERE SHOPS ON THE 2ND FLOOR THROUGH THE 8TH. THE 10TH FLOOR WAS DESIGNATED AS AN OBSERVATORY AND THE 12TH WAS EQUIPPED WITH A TELESCOPE WITH A POWER THAT MAGNIFIED THIRTY TIMES. IT BECAME THE TALK OF TOKYO

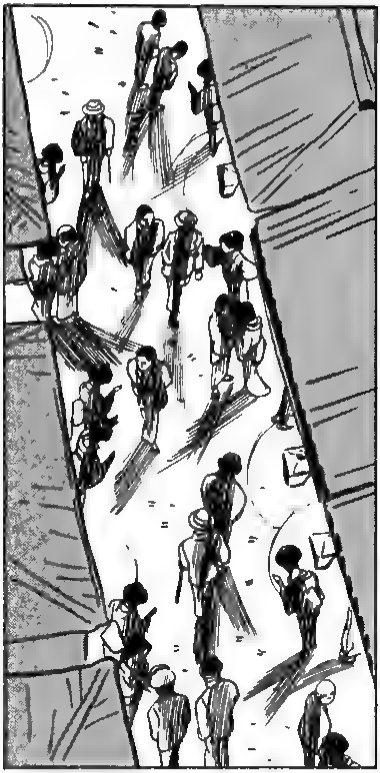
RRMMM
HH!

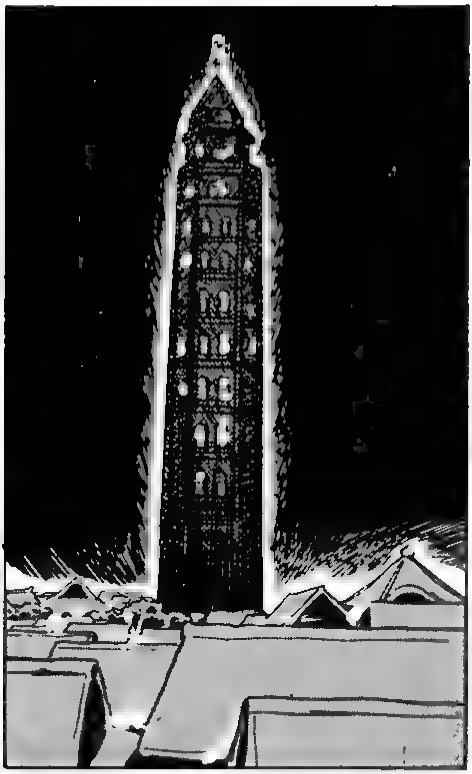
AFTER THE RYOUNKAKU WAS BUILT, THE BROTHEL DISTRICT YOU SEE DOWN THERE WAS NICKNAMED "TWELVE FLOORS BELOW."
UP UNTIL THEN THERE WERE JUST A FEW, SHODDY BROTHELS, BUT NOW, AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY'VE TURNED THE AREA INTO A PROFITABLE BUSINESS.
THIS AREA IS JINBA FAMILY'S TERRITORY, AND AS THEIR BUSINESS TURNED INTO A HOT CASH COW, THE CLAN BEGAN ACTING MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER. BECAUSE OF THEIR SUCCESS, OUR BUSINESS IS DECREASING, AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.
I BET THEY HAVE OVER 300 BITCHES.
BUT WE CAN'T START A BLOOD WAR BECAUSE WE'VE GOT NO CHANCE OF WINNING.
THEY'RE TAKING AWAY OUR FIRST-RATE CUSTOMERS AND PULLING OUT OUR YOUNGER CUSTOMERS. OUR BITCHES ARE LEAVING FOR THEM, TOO, RUINING OUR BUSINESS.

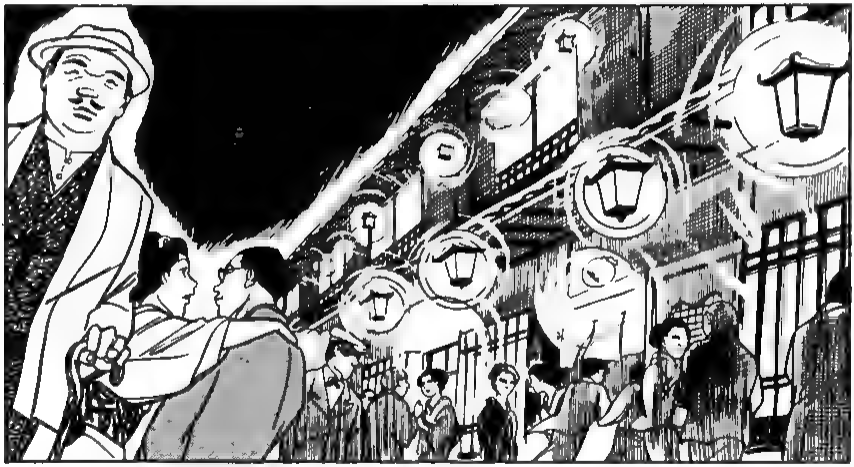

THE BROTHELS ARE LAID OUT IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT'S DIFFICULT TO GET OUT ONCE YOU ENTER--EVEN THOSE WHO'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA CAN GET LOST IN IT.


IT'S AN ARTIFICIAL MAZE MADE TO ENSURE THAT THEIR WOMEN CAN'T RUN AWAY. BE AWARE AND DON'T GET IN TROUBLE.

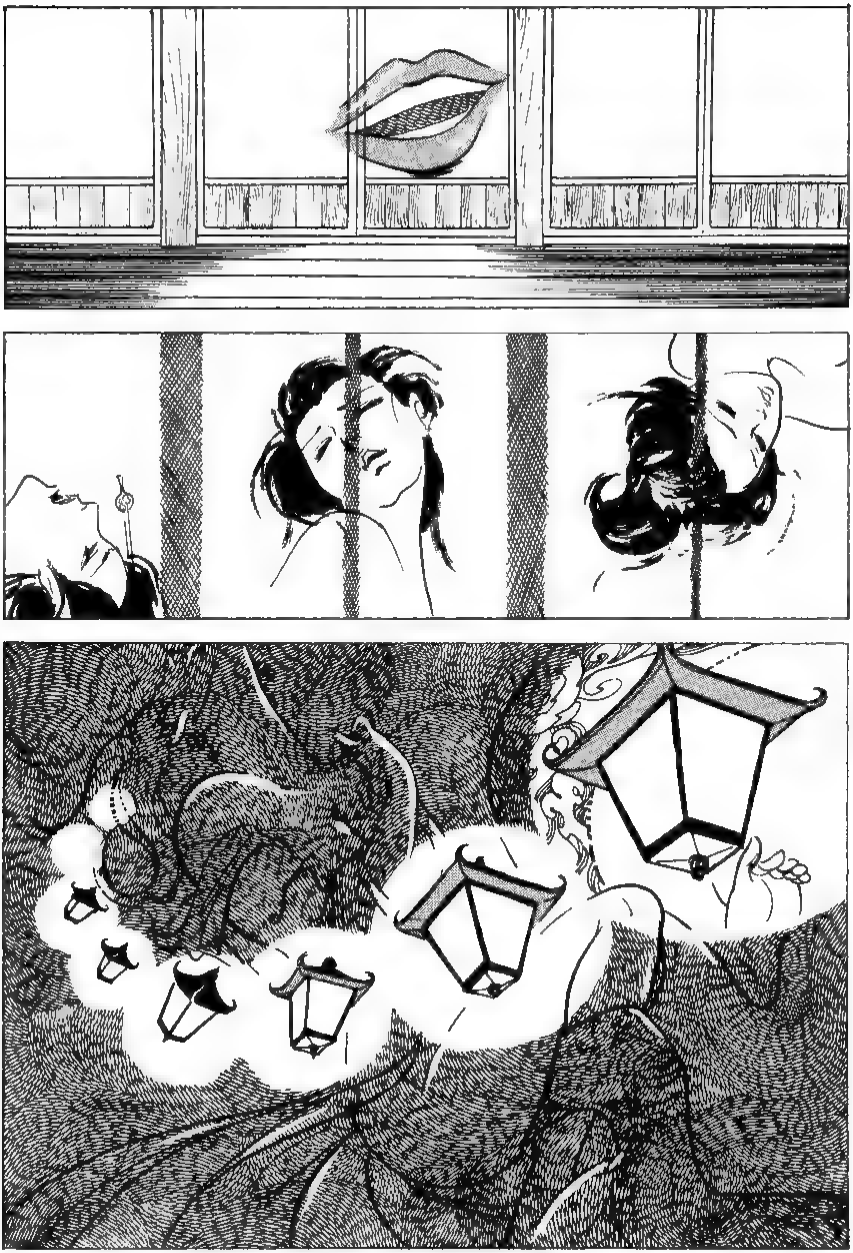

REGARDING THE 1,000 YEN, HERE'S TEN 100 KAMATARI YEN BILLS. PLEASE COUNT AND ACCEPT

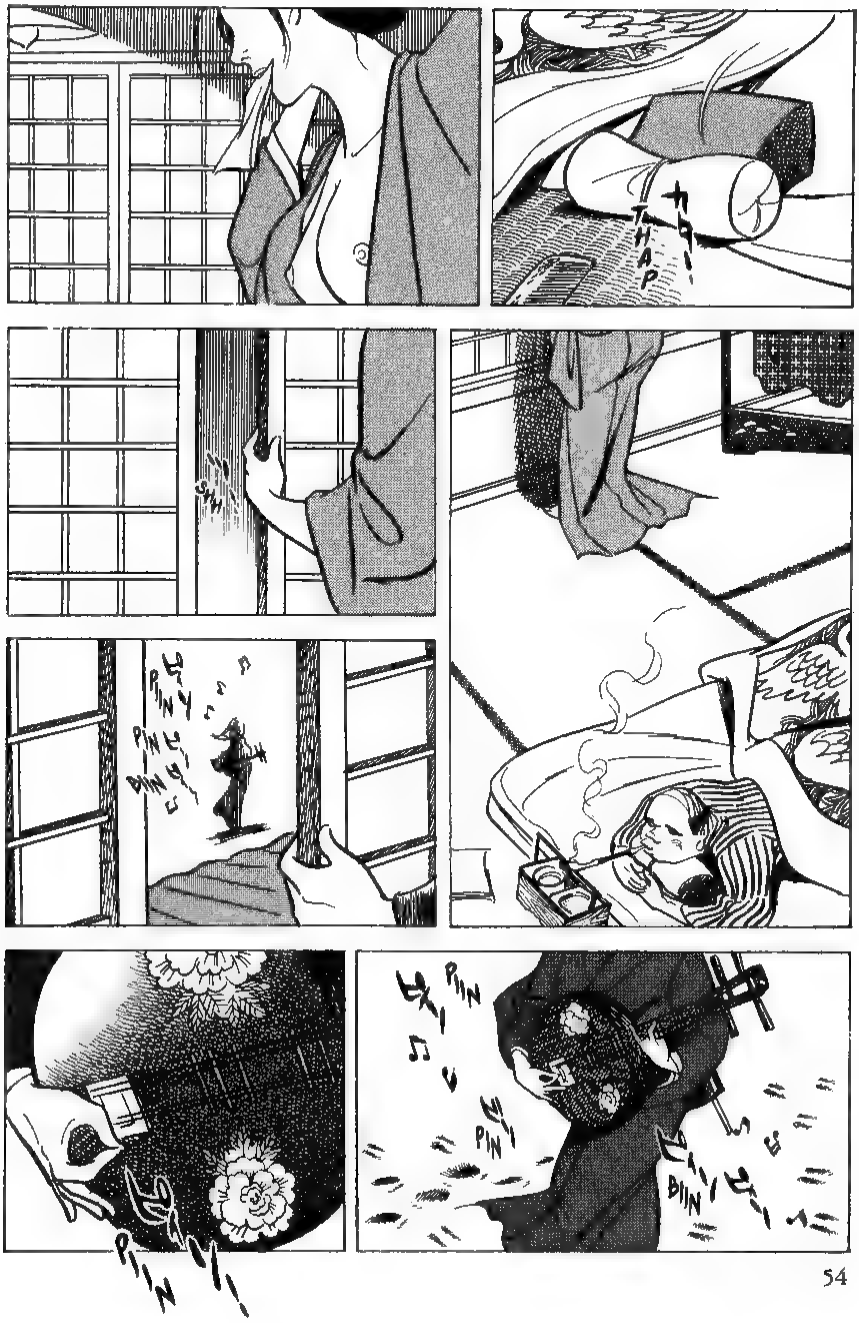






WHSH
GONG
GONG
GONG

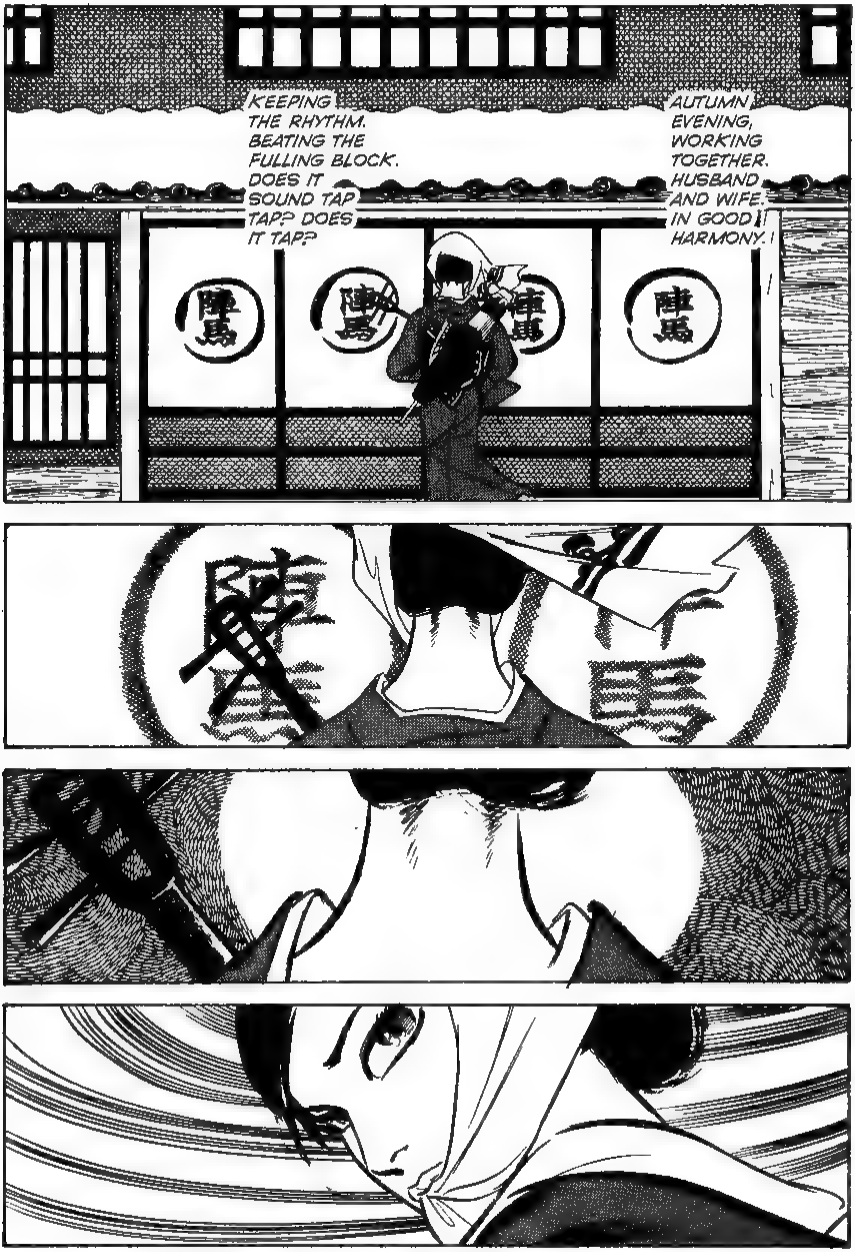


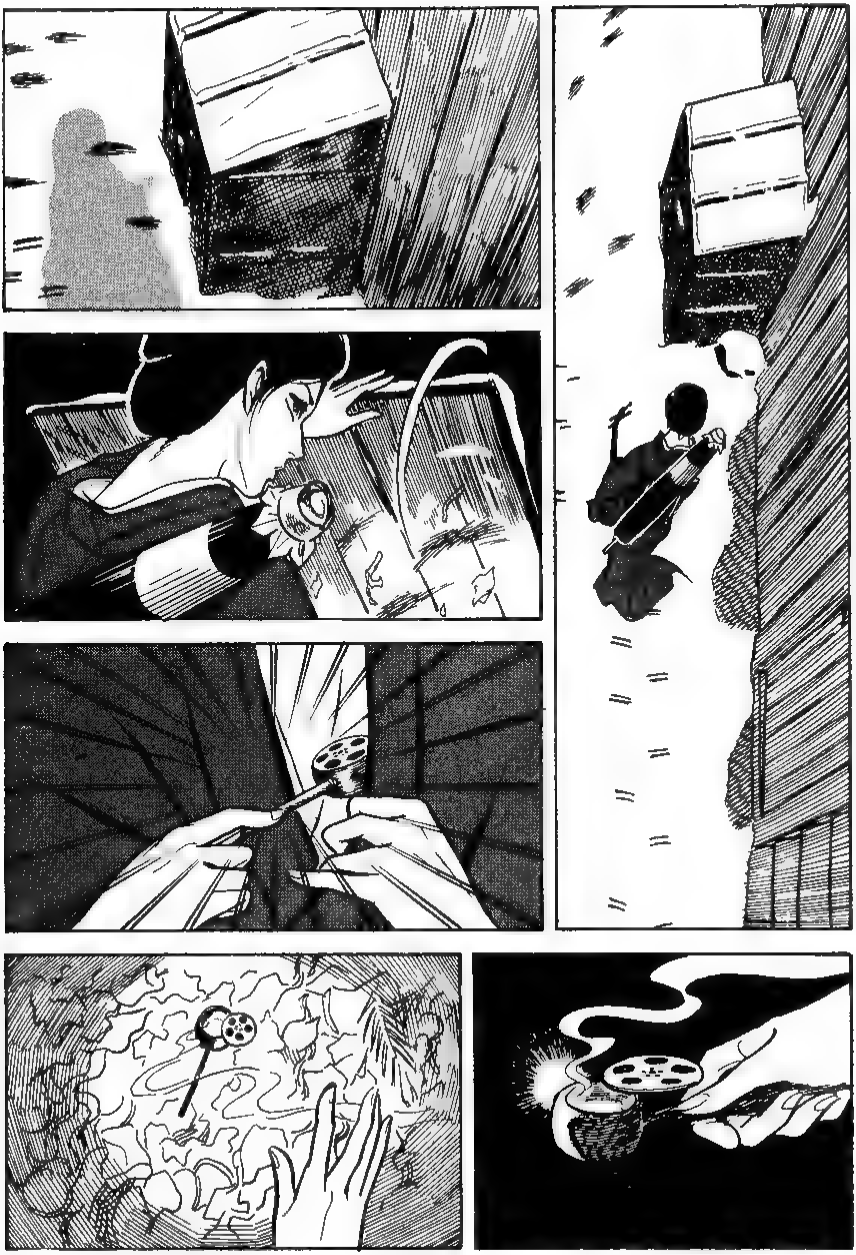

THAP
PIIN
PIIN
PIIN
PIIN
PIIN
PIIN

PIN
LO
LY
PIN
LO
PIN
LY
LO
PIN

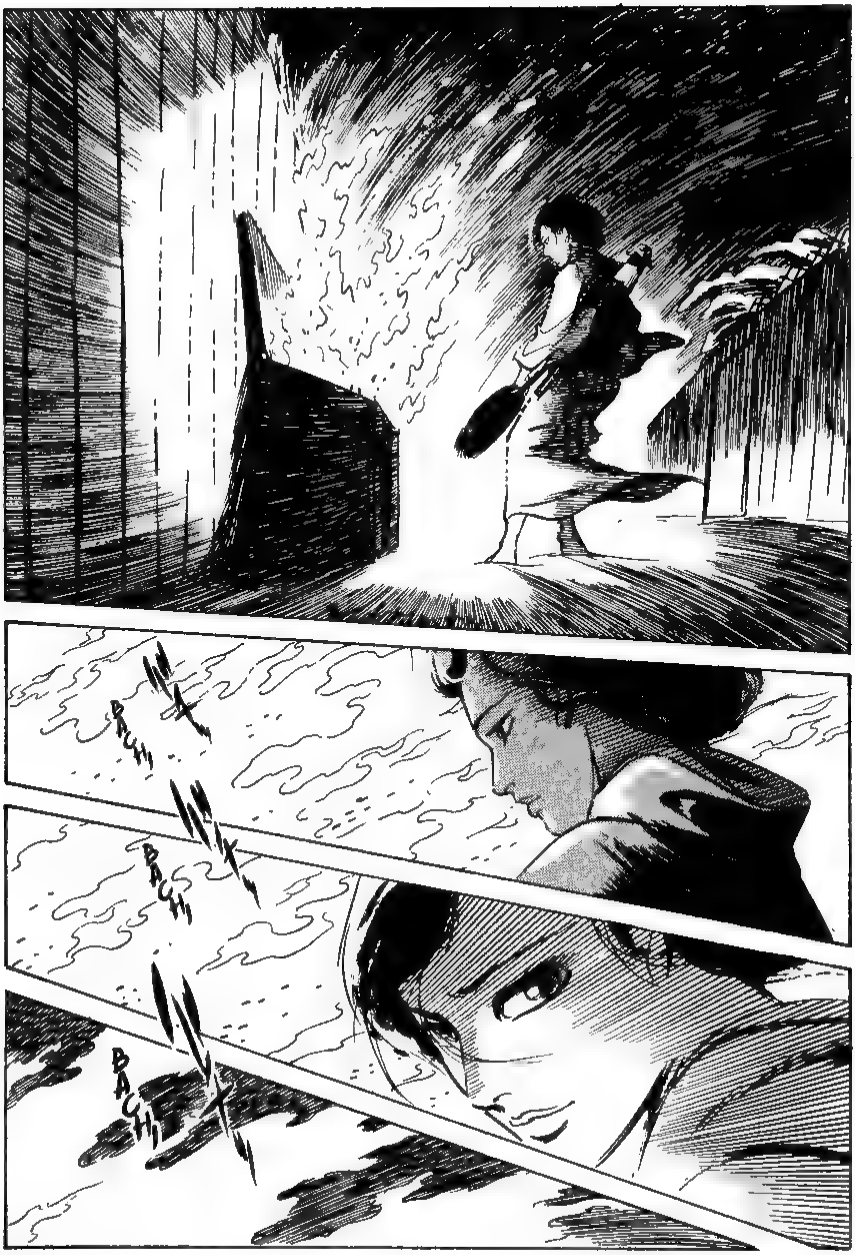
I WANT TO KNOW WHY TWELVE FLOORS BELOW IS DOING SO WELL.
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'VE GOT FIRST RATE WOMEN. THEIR PRICES AREN'T THAT CHEAP EITHER.
I WANT YOU TO KILL JINBA. BUT I'VE GOT AN ADDITIONAL REQUEST TOO.
WE TRIED TO INVESTIGATE OURSELVES, AND ALL WE COULD FIND IS THAT THEY GET THEIR BITCHES TO DO SOMETHING CALLED "TOICHI HAICHI."
RYOUNKAKU MAY BE GETTING THEM MORE CUSTOMERS, AND HICKS MAY FIND IT DESIRABLE. BUT THAT CAN'T BE ENOUGH TO ATTRACT FIRST RATE MASTERS.

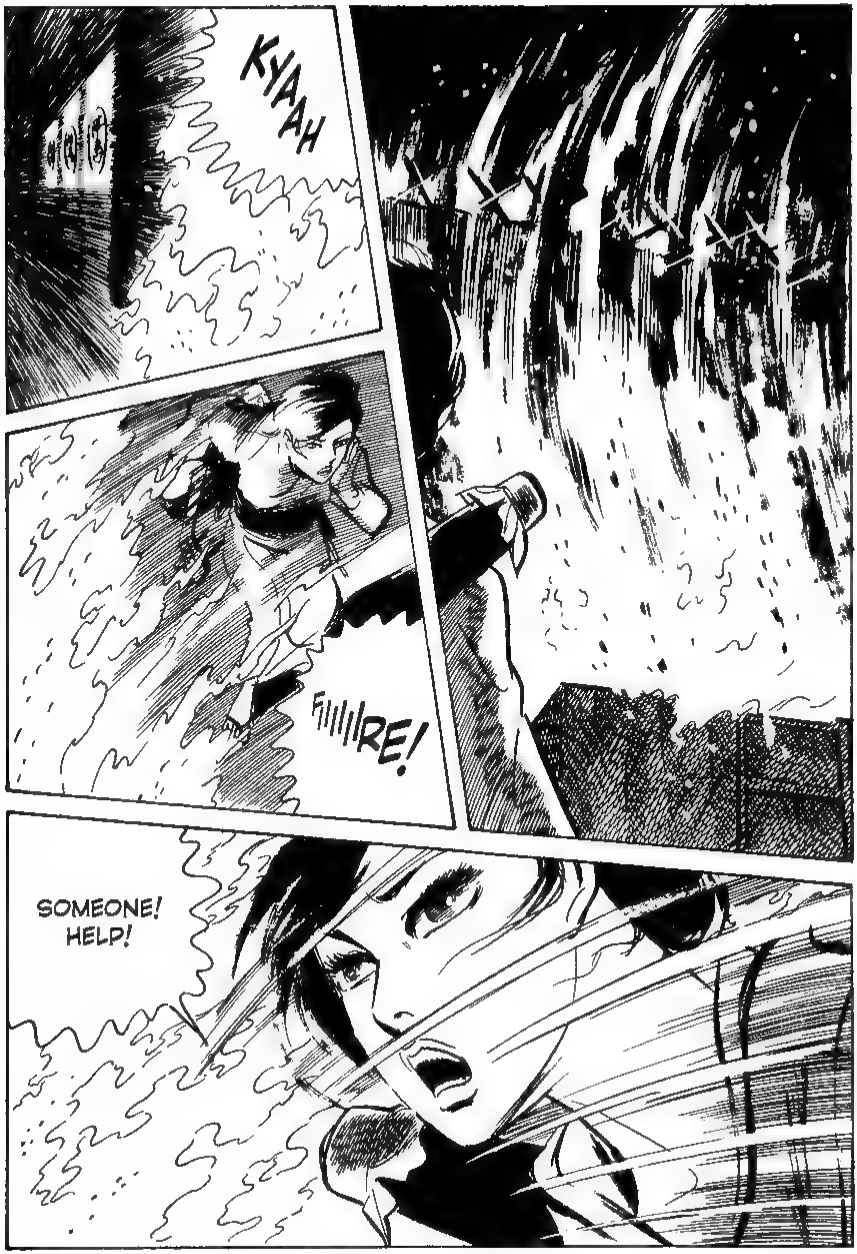
MEN FLOCK AND GO WILD OVER IT, SO IT MUST BE SOMETHING INCREDIBLE. THE PROBLEM IS, WOMEN PERFORM IT ACCORDING TO A SPECIFIC SCHEDULE, AND THEY GUARD IT HEAVILY.
THE PROBLEM IS, WE'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT "TOICHI HAICHI" IS.
VIEW FROM RYOGOKU DURING THE SUMMER. SHIPS AND HOUSEBOATS, GOING AND COMING.
I'LL PAY ADDITIONAL 200 RYO FOR THAT.
WHAT I WANT IS FOR YOU TO TELL ME WHAT IT IS.
IS IT A KARMA BROUGHT BY THE BILLIARDS PARLOR?
SHOOTING STARS HIGH ABOVE. FALLING, FALLING DOWN.

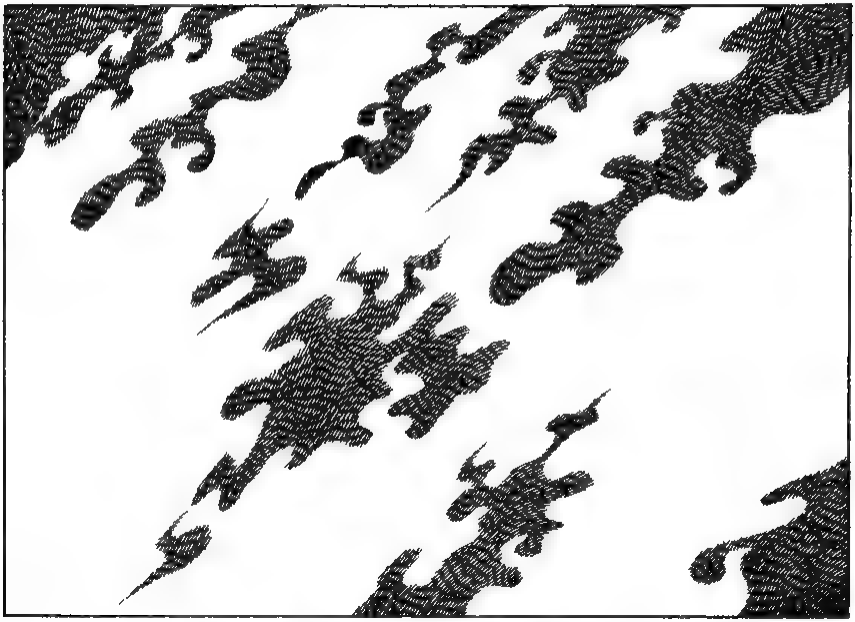

KEEPING THE RHYTHM. BEATING THE FULLING BLOCK. DOES IT SOUND TAP TAP? DOES IT TAP?
AUTUMN EVENING, WORKING TOGETHER. HUSBAND AND WIFE. IN GOOD HARMONY.!



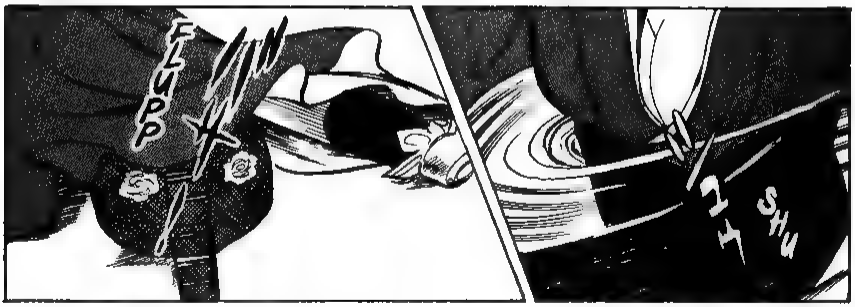
BWAH
POP
WHOOSH!


BACH
BACH
BACH


KYAAH
FIIIIRE!
SOMEONE! HELP!



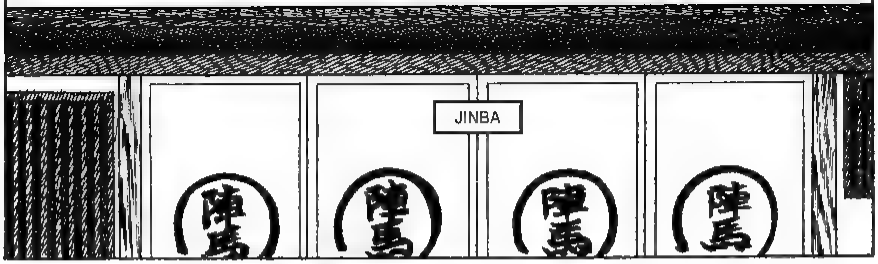
SOMEONE! HELP!
THERE'S A FIRE!


FLUPP
SHU

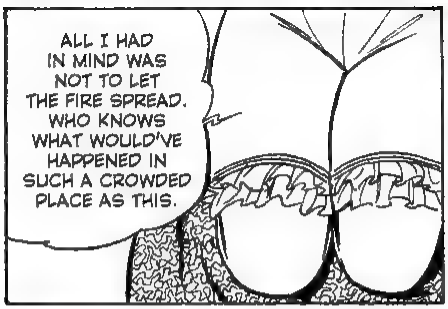
BA BANG
THUMP
THUMP
WAAAAAH
OH!

FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
YOU MORONS! WHAT ARE YOU STANDING THERE FOR? PUT OUT THE FIRE!
YES, SIR.

SPLASH
BESIDES. THAT'S QUITE SEXY
SHE'S A TASTY ONE

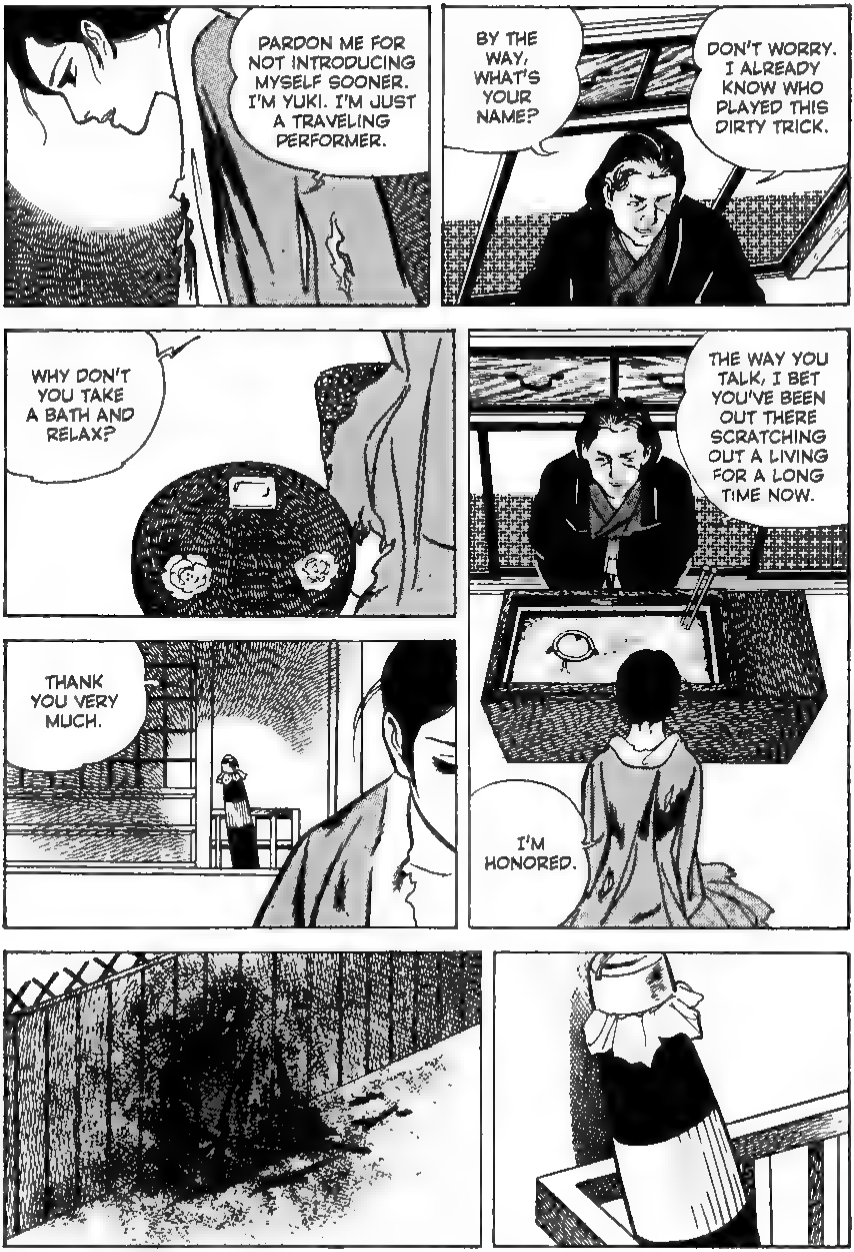

JINBA

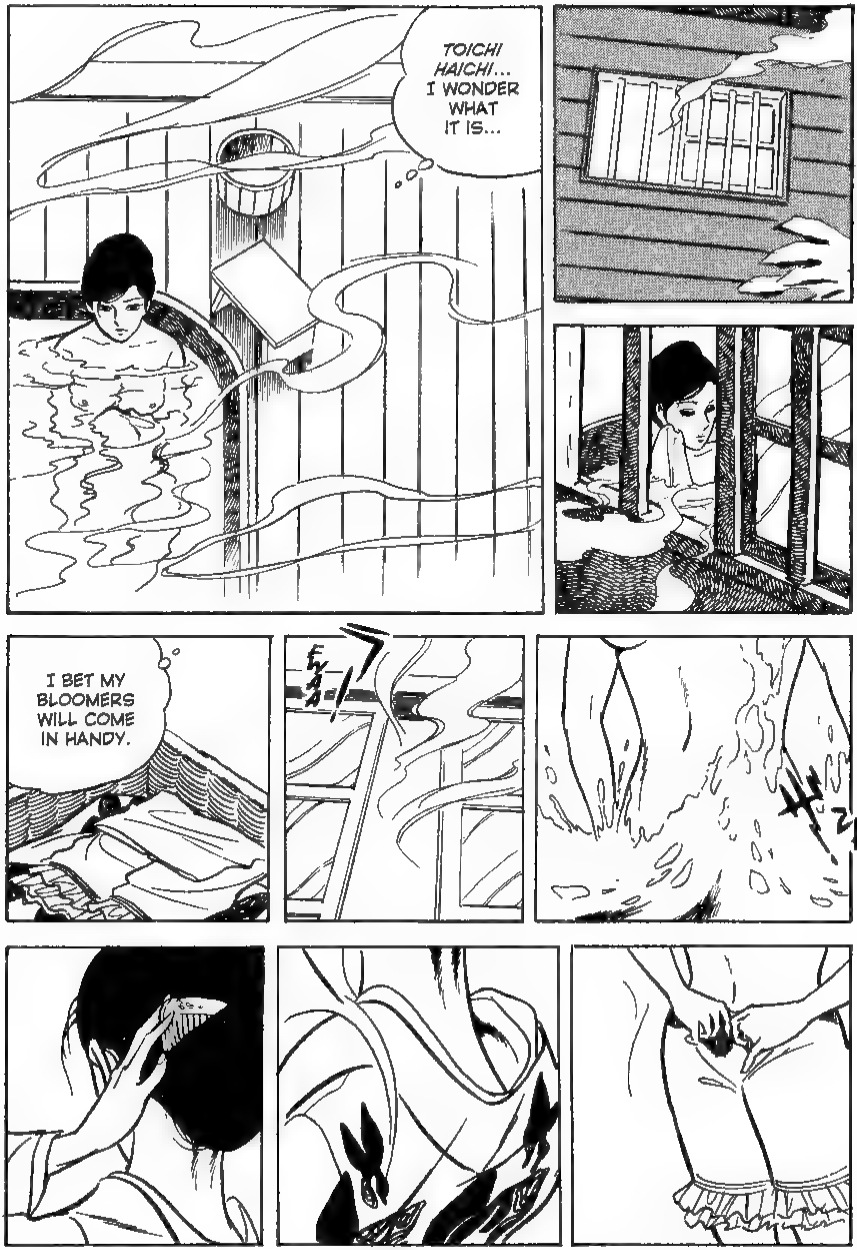
LET ME, RYUZO JINBA, EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE.
THANKS TO YOU, THIS WASN'T A DISASTER. YOU SAVED US, AND THAT'S NOT A SMALL DEBT.


ALL I HAD IN MIND WAS NOT TO LET THE FIRE SPREAD. WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IN SUCH A CROWDED PLACE AS THIS.

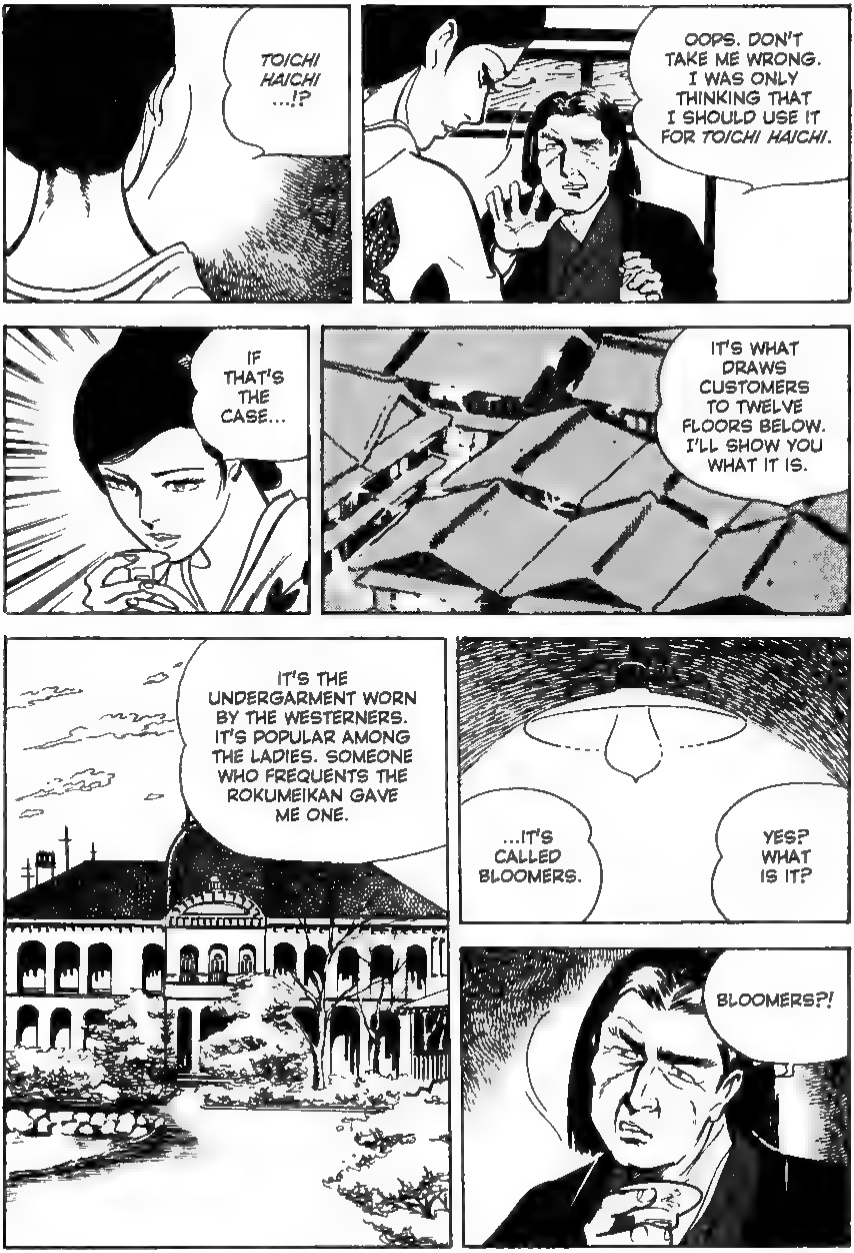
OH NO, *OYABUN*. ALL I DID WAS WHAT ANY PASSERBY WOULD HAVE DONE.

YES, SIR.
AND PREPARE THE WARM BATH RIGHT AWAY.
HURRY UP AND FETCH SOMETHING CLEAN AND FRESH FOR HER TO WEAR. COME ON, DON'T BE SO SLOW.
BUT THOSE BASTARDS OF KANESUGI-GUMI! I WON'T STAY SILENT AFTER WHAT THEY'VE JUST DONE. THEY'D BETTER BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST.
I APOLOGIZE FOR OUR LACK OF HOSPITALITY.
THE FIRE GREW SO QUICK... I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE...
OF COURSE. WHO ELSE?
OYABUN, ARE YOU SAYING KANESUGI-GUMI IS RESPONSIBLE!?

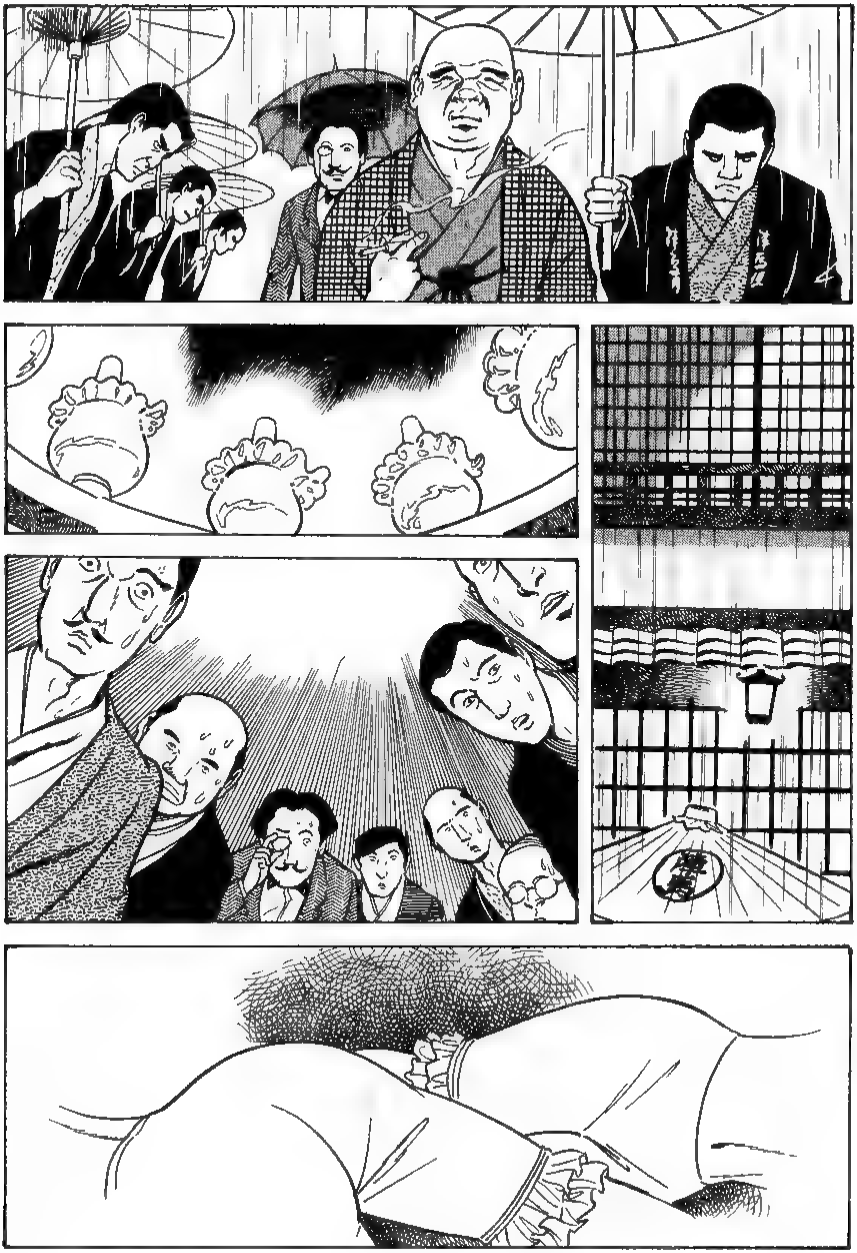

PARDON ME FOR NOT INTRODUCING MYSELF SOONER. I'M YUKI. I'M JUST A TRAVELING PERFORMER.
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
DON'T WORRY. I ALREADY KNOW WHO PLAYED THIS DIRTY TRICK.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BATH AND RELAX?
THE WAY YOU TALK, I BET YOU'VE BEEN OUT THERE SCRATCHING OUT A LIVING FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I'M HONORED.


TOICHI HAICHI... I WONDER WHAT IT IS...
I BET MY BLOOMERS WILL COME IN HANDY.

...
...
...WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A DRINK FIRST.
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU, BUT...
...
...
WHAT IS THAT? DO YOU MIND TELLING ME ABOUT IT?
NOW, I SAW YOU WEARING SOMETHING WEIRD-- SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN A LOINCLOTH.


TOICHI HAICHI ...!?
OOPS. DON'T TAKE ME WRONG. I WAS ONLY THINKING THAT I SHOULD USE IT FOR TOICHI HAICHI.
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
IT'S WHAT DRAWS CUSTOMERS TO TWELVE FLOORS BELOW. I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT IT IS.
IT'S THE UNDERGARMENT WORN BY THE WESTERNERS. IT'S POPULAR AMONG THE LADIES. SOMEONE WHO FREQUENTS THE ROKUMEIKAN GAVE ME ONE.
...IT'S CALLED BLOOMERS.
YES? WHAT IS IT?
BLOOMERS?!

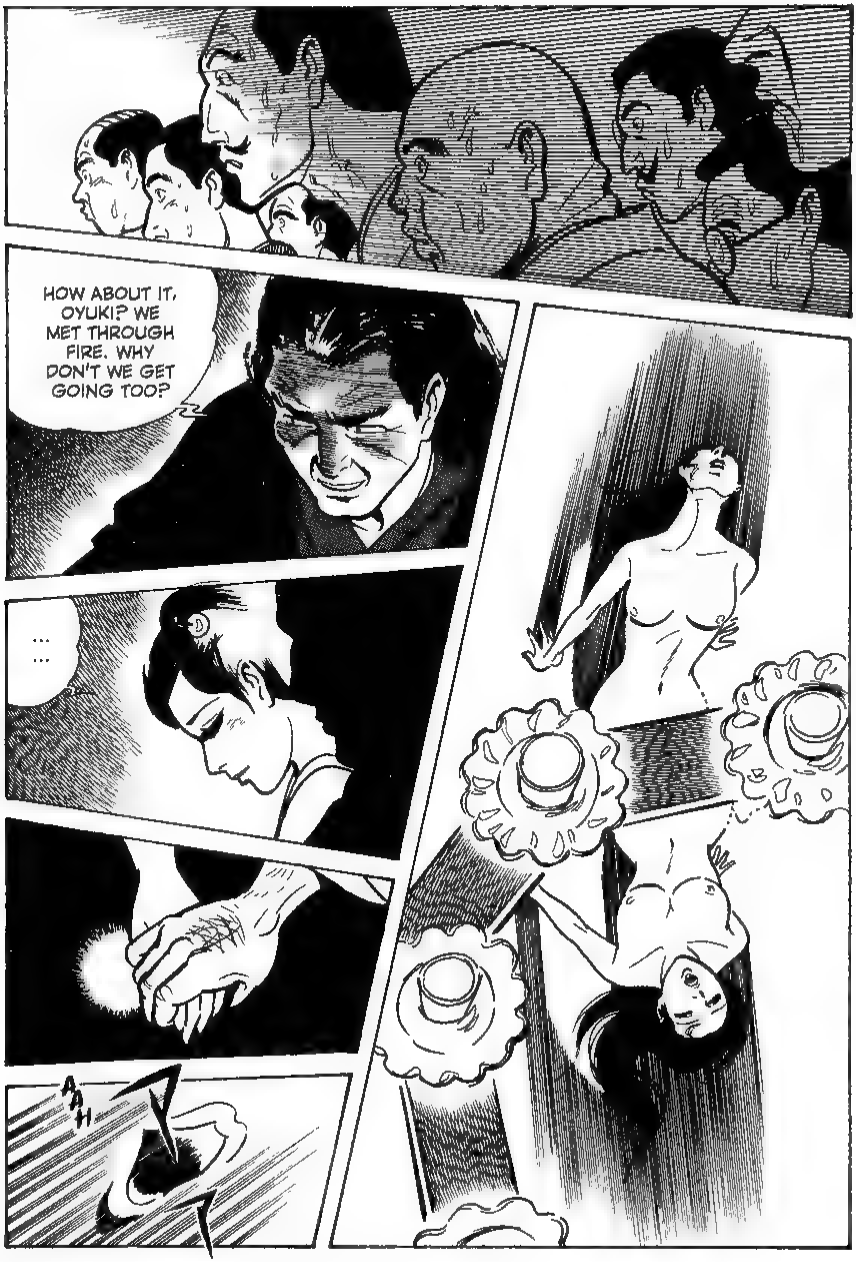
...
...
MAY I BORROW IT FROM YOU JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
YES, SIR.
SOME-ONE, COME HERE.
?!
GET THIS THING CALLED "BLOOMERS" REPLICATED RIGHT AWAY.
HEH...



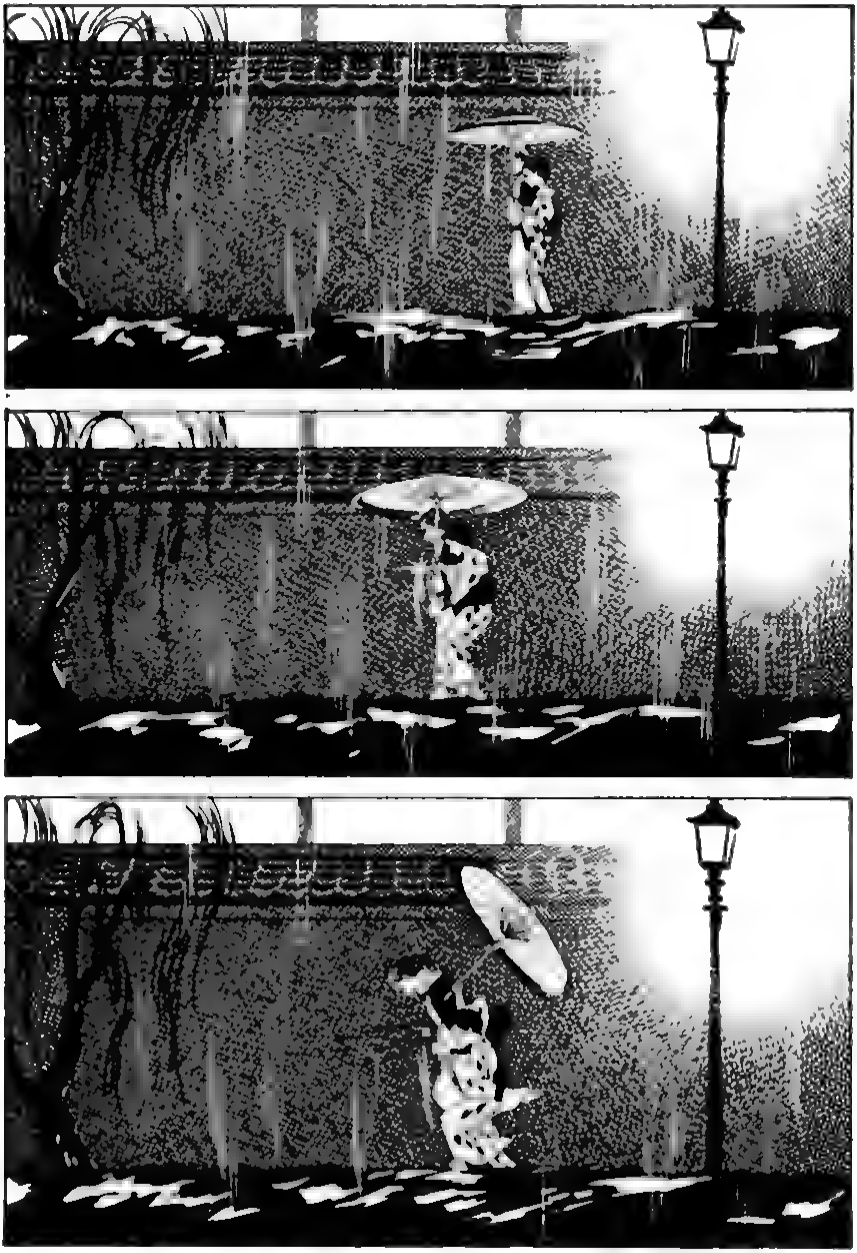
TOICHI HAICHI REFERS TO SEX BETWEEN WOMEN. IT'S ALL ABOUT PERVERTED SEX.

YOU SEE, THE KANJI CHARACTER "HEI" IS MADE UP OF THE CHARACTERS FOR TOICHI HAICHI.
THERE'S AN EXTRA STROKE IN TOICHI HACHI, BUT NOT IN HEI. AN UNECCESSARY STROKE.
HEI

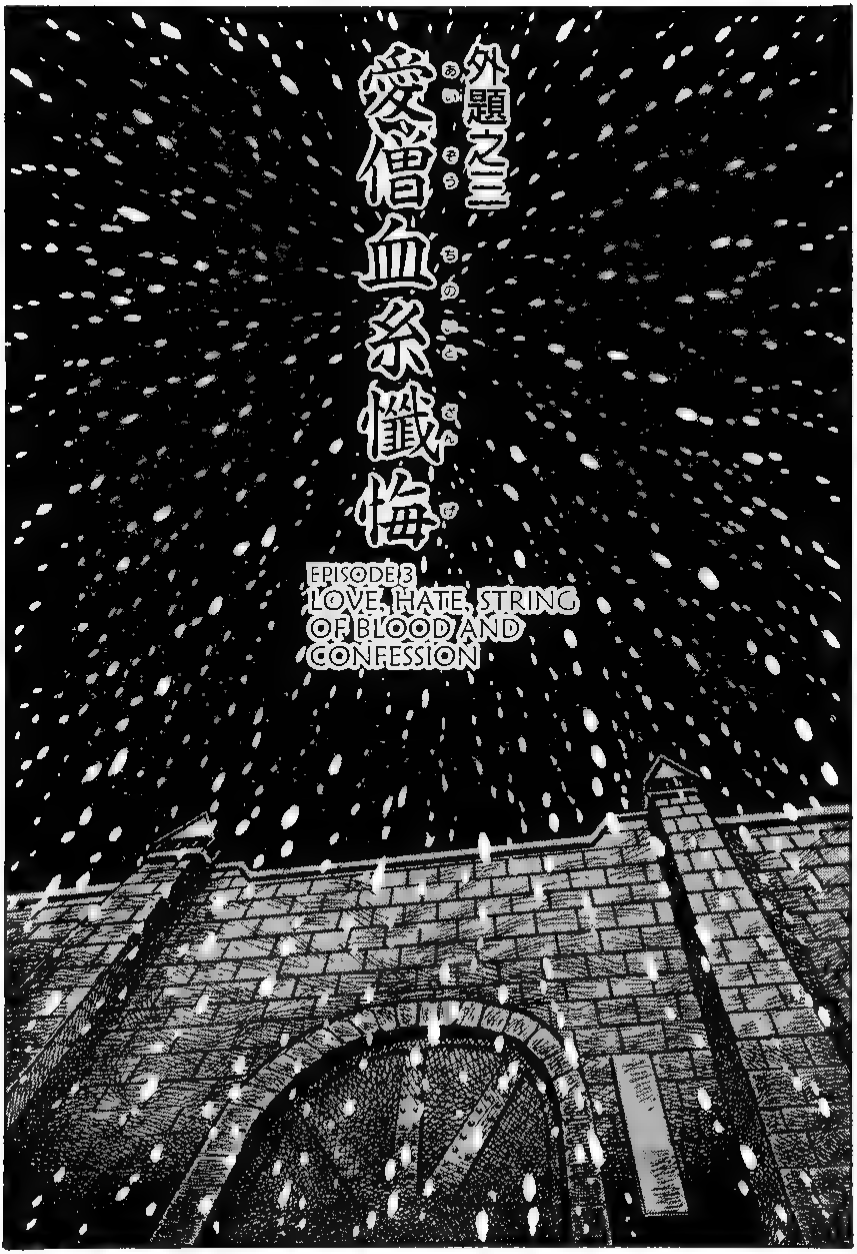
THEY TURN WILD AFTER THEY WATCH THE SEX BETWEEN WOMEN.
THIS PARTICULAR TOY IS VERY POPULAR. HEE HEE HEE.
...
THE FIRST RATE CUSTOMERS ARE ROUSED TO BURNING HOT. HEE HEE HEE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

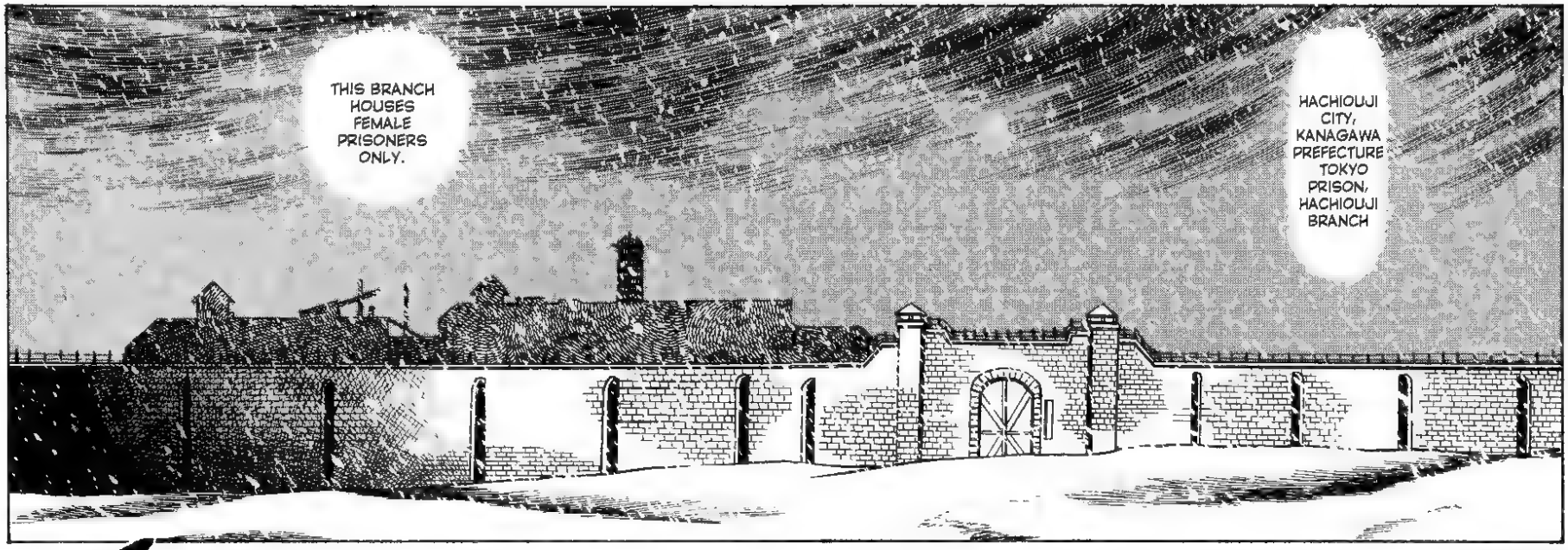

HOW ABOUT IT, OYUKI? WE MET THROUGH FIRE. WHY DON'T WE GET GOING TOO?
...
...
AAH

LET'S GO HOME AND HAVE SOME FUN, HUH?
BWAFF



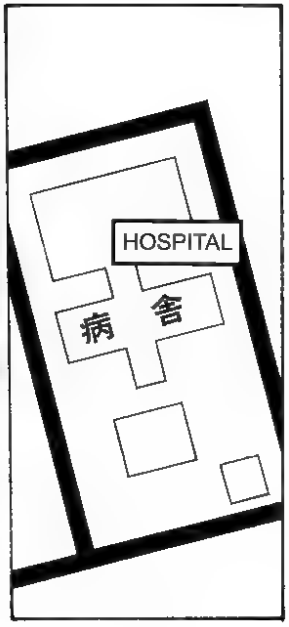
■STYLISH WOMAN AND UMBRELLA OVER RAIN OF BLOOD. / THE END■

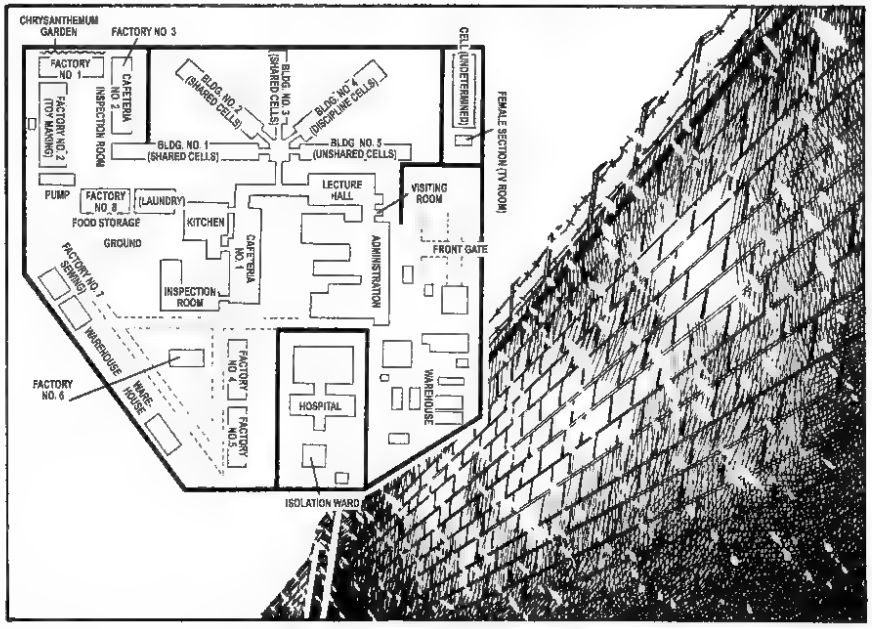

外題之三
愛憎血糸懺悔
EPISODE 3
LOVE, HATE, STRING
OF BLOOD AND
CONFESSION


THIS BRANCH HOUSES FEMALE PRISONERS ONLY.
HACHIOUJI CITY, KANAGAWA PREFECTURE TOKYO PRISON, HACHIOUJI BRANCH

AHHH

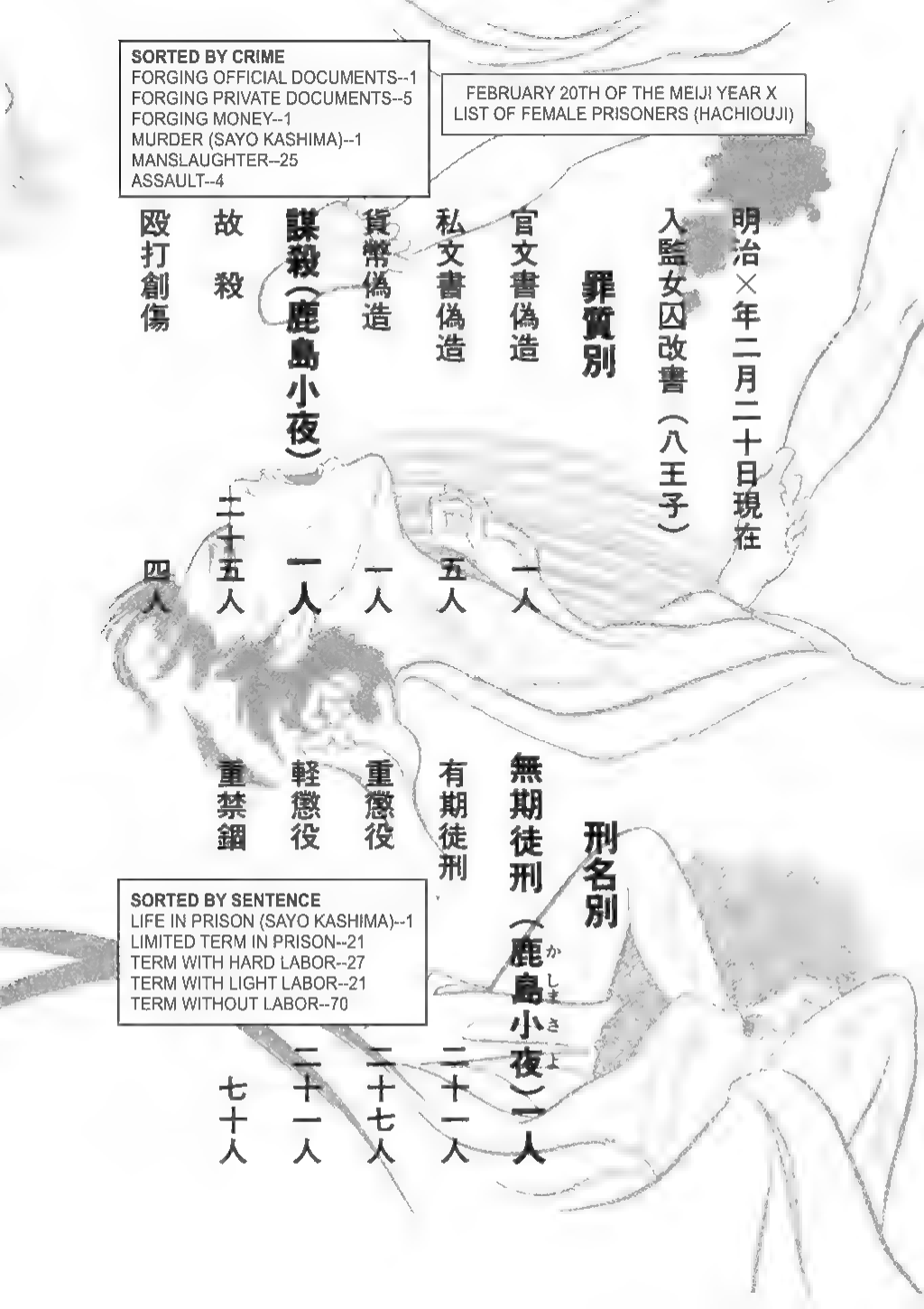
舎病
UHUU
UH...

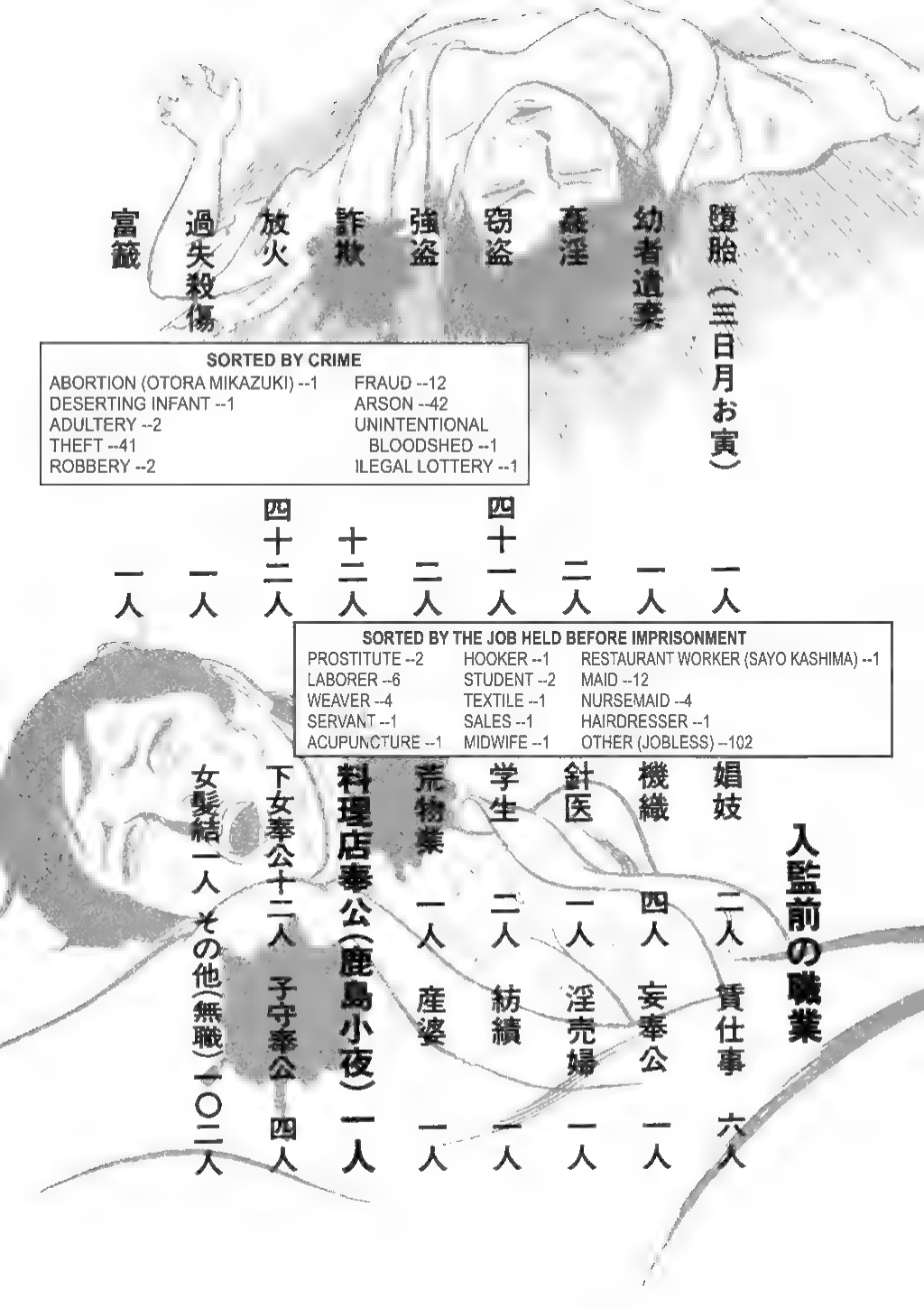

HOSPITAL
病舎


CHRYSANTHEMUM GARDEN
FACTORY NO 3
FACTORY NO. 1
CAFETERIA NO. 2
INSPECTION ROOM
FACTORY NO. 2 (KU MAKING)
BLDG. NO. 2 (SHARED CELLS)
BLDG. NO. 3 (SHARED CELLS)
BLDG. NO. 4 (DISCIPLINE CELLS)
CELL (UNDETERMINED)
FEMALE SECTION (TV ROOM)
BLDG. NO. 1 (SHARED CELLS)
BLDG. NO. 5 (UNSHARED CELLS)
PUMP
FACTORY NO. 8
(LAUNDRY)
FOOD STORAGE
KITCHEN
LECTURE HALL
VISITING ROOM
GROUND
CAFETERIA NO. 1
ADMINISTRATION
FRONT GATE
FACTORY NO. 7 SEWING
INSPECTION ROOM
WAREHOUSE
FACTORY NO. 6
WARE HOUSE
FACTORY NO. 4
FACTORY NO. 5
HOSPITAL
WAREHOUSE
ISOLATION WARD

DAMN IT! IT'S NOT GOING WELL.
GYAHH
B-BESIDES, WE'VE GOT A GEEZER OF A DOCTOR WITH PALSY IN THIS LOCKUP. IT SUCKS!

IF I, OTORA, WASN'T HERE, WHAT WERE YOU GONNA DO?
HUGGUP
BESIDES, YOU CAN'T EXPECT A MIDWIFE'S HELP IN THE LOCKUP.
HEE HEE
HEE HEE
IT'S BEEN OVER TWO YEARS SINCE OSAYO ARRIVED HERE. *TOICHI HAICHI* BETWEEN WOMEN WON'T PLANT A SEED.
TO GET KNOCKED UP IN A WOMEN'S PRISON IS WHAT'S SO CRAZY ABOUT IT TO BEGIN WITH.
HUMMPH!
DAMN! YOU PUMPKIN HEAD! YOU QUACK!
OSAYO!
TAKE COURAGE, OSAYO!
AHHHH


SORTED BY CRIME
FORGING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS--1
FORGING PRIVATE DOCUMENTS--5
FORGING MONEY--1
MURDER (SAYO KASHIMA)--1
MANSLAUGHTER--25
ASSAULT--4
FEBRUARY 20TH OF THE MEIJI YEAR X
LIST OF FEMALE PRISONERS (HACHIOUJI)
明治×年二月二十日現在
入監女囚改書（八王子）
罪質別
官文書偽造 一人
私文書偽造 五人
貨幣偽造 一人
謀殺（鹿島小夜） 一人
故殺 二十五人
殴打創傷 四人
刑名別
無期徒刑（鹿島小夜）一人
有期徒刑
重懲役 二十七人
軽懲役 二十一人
重禁錮 七十人
SORTED BY SENTENCE
LIFE IN PRISON (SAYO KASHIMA)--1
LIMITED TERM IN PRISON--21
TERM WITH HARD LABOR--27
TERM WITH LIGHT LABOR--21
TERM WITHOUT LABOR--70



堕胎（三日月お寅）　一人
幼者遺棄　一人
姦淫　二人
窃盗　四十一人
強盗　二人
詐欺　十二人
放火　四十二人
過失殺傷　一人
富籤　一人

SORTED BY CRIME	
ABORTION (OTORA MIKAZUKI) --1	FRAUD --12
DESERTING INFANT --1	ARSON --42
ADULTERY --2	UNINTENTIONAL BLOODSHED --1
THEFT --41	ILEGAL LOTTERY --1
ROBBERY --2	

SORTED BY THE JOB HELD BEFORE IMPRISONMENT		
PROSTITUTE --2	HOOKER --1	RESTAURANT WORKER (SAYO KASHIMA) --1
LABORER --6	STUDENT --2	MAID --12
WEAVER --4	TEXTILE --1	NURSEMAID --4
SERVANT --1	SALES --1	HAIRDRESSER --1
ACUPUNCTURE --1	MIDWIFE --1	OTHER (JOBLESS) --102

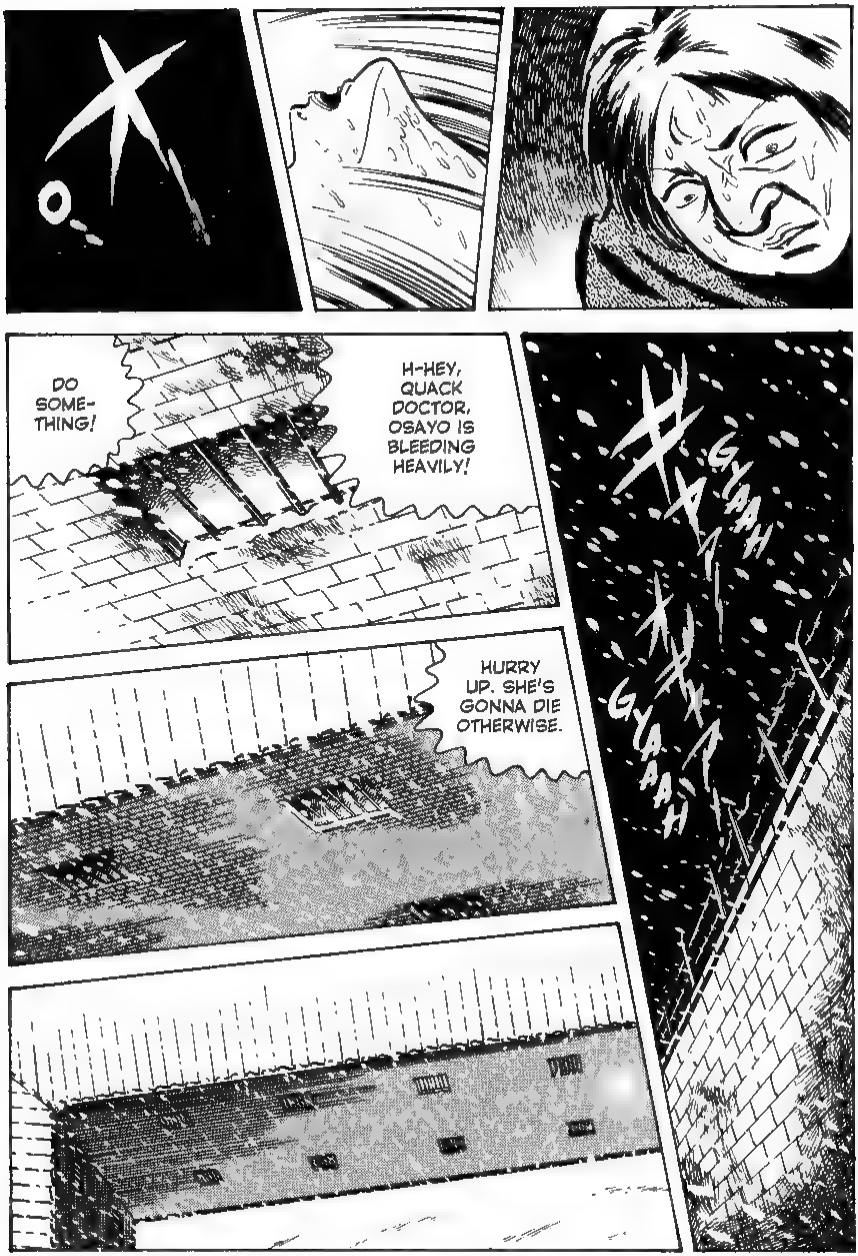
入監前の職業

娼妓　二人　賃仕事　六人
機織　四人　妾奉公　一人
針医　一人　淫売婦　一人
学生　二人　紡績　一人
荒物業　一人　産婆　一人
料理店奉公（鹿島小夜）一人
下女奉公十二人　子守奉公　四人
女髪結一人　その他（無職）一〇二人

...
...
YOU MAY HAVE TO GIVE UP YOUR BABY.
...BUT NO DELIVERY WAS ANYTHING AS BAD AS THIS.
I DELIVERED A NUMBER OF BABIES OUT THERE IN THE WORLD...
OTORA, PLEASE SAVE MY BABY!
...BUT SAVE MY BABY.
I-I DON'T CARE IF I DIE...
Y-YOU MUST DELIVER MY BABY ALIVE NO MATTER WHAT!
NOOO!
S-SAYO. IF YOU CONTINUE TO PUSH, YOU'RE GONNA DIE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
Y-YOU'VE GOT A DEVIL'S BABY IT'S AN UPSIDE-DOWN DEVIL'S BABY.
WHO KNOWS IF IT'S GONNA COME OUT ALIVE. IF YOU DON'T CARE IF THE BABY COMES OUT DEAD, I COULD--

PLEASE! MY BABY!
GRRK
PLEASE SAVE MY BABY!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME.
SHAA
BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THE FATHER IS.
B-BUT I CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR LIFE. GOT IT?
O-OKAY. I-I'LL TRY.
IF THE BABY IS DELIVERED DEAD, TORA...
YAAAAAAAH
...I'M GONNA KILL YOU!

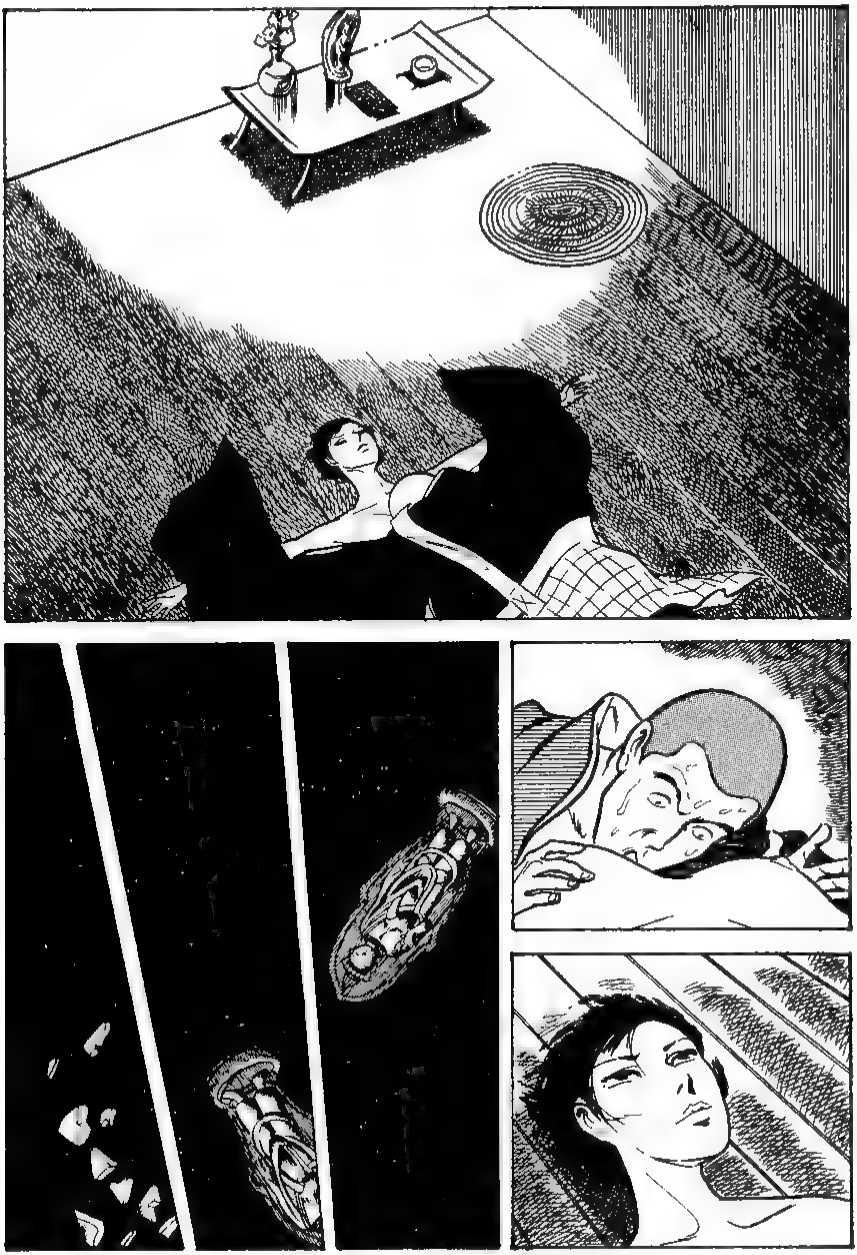
WE ARE!
ARE WE PREPARED?
AH
CRIKK


DO SOME-THING!
H-HEY, QUACK DOCTOR, OSAYO IS BLEEDING HEAVILY!
GYAAH
GYAAH
HURRY UP. SHE'S GONNA DIE OTHERWISE.

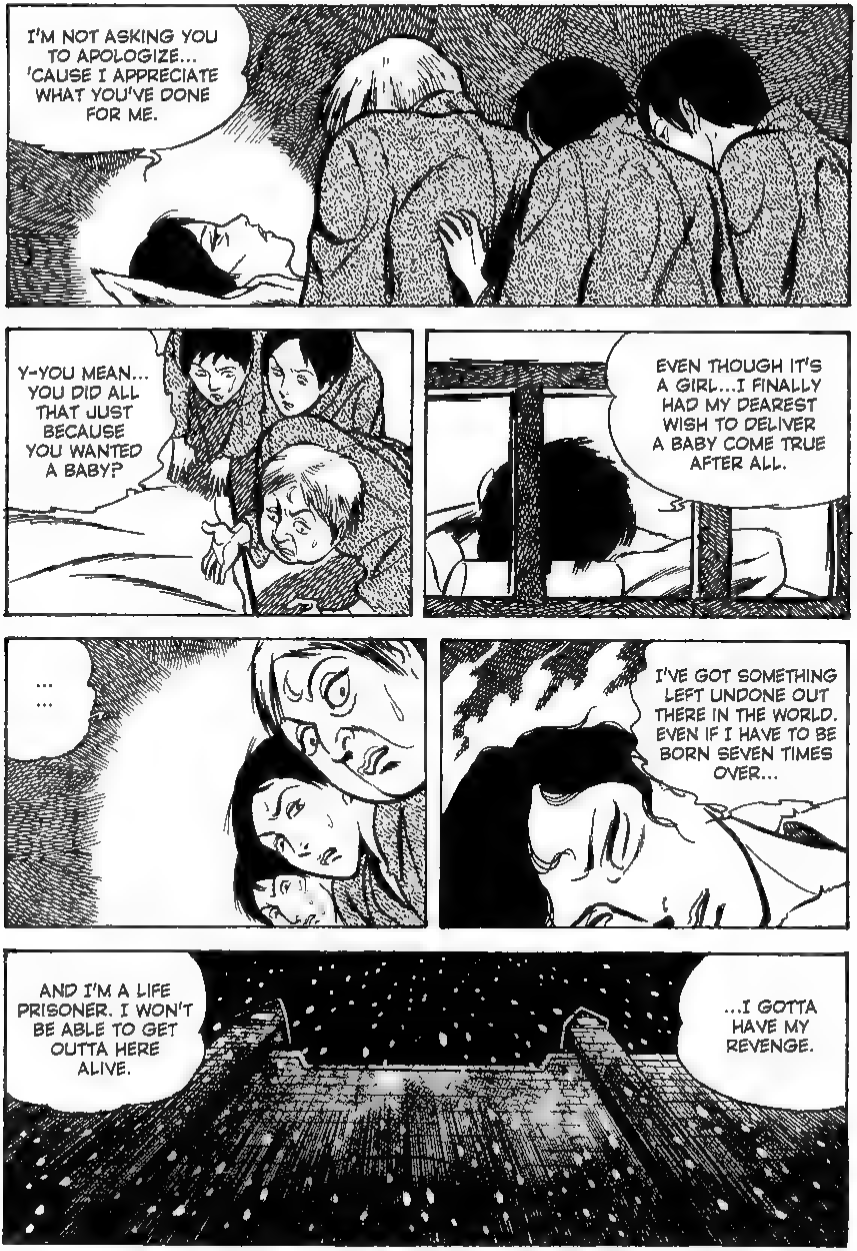
OSAYO, IT'S A GIRL.
……

EVEN THOUGH HER MOTHER IS IN JAIL, THIS BABY HAS DONE NO CRIME.
TO BE BORN IN THE LOCKUP. WHAT A BAD LUCK CHILD.
I GOT AN IDEA. WHAT ABOUT CALLING HER OYUKI? DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BEAUTIFUL NAME?
SHE IS AS PURE AS THE WHITE SNOW.
OYUKI
...
...?
I WANTED... A BOY. I WANTED... A STRONG BOY.

I DID IT NOT ONLY HERE BUT ALSO AT ICHIGAYA FEMALE PRISON BEFORE I CAME HERE.
TO GIVE BIRTH TO A BOY, I LURED MAN AFTER MAN LIKE A RUTTING BITCH.
教誨室
TEMPLE



JUNK
OTORA, YOU KEPT TELLING ME TO STOP. YOU EVEN CALLED ME A SEX-AHOLIC FREAK.
ALL OF YOU CALLED ME MANIAC AND SLUT.


I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO APOLOGIZE... 'CAUSE I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.
Y-YOU MEAN... YOU DID ALL THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU WANTED A BABY?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A GIRL...I FINALLY HAD MY DEAREST WISH TO DELIVER A BABY COME TRUE AFTER ALL.
...
...
I'VE GOT SOMETHING LEFT UNDONE OUT THERE IN THE WORLD. EVEN IF I HAVE TO BE BORN SEVEN TIMES OVER...
AND I'M A LIFE PRISONER. I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET OUTTA HERE ALIVE.
...I GOTTA HAVE MY REVENGE.

BUT MY BABY-- SHE CAN LEAVE RIGHT AWAY.
I'LL HAVE MY BABY DELIVER MY VENGEANCE. AFTER I DIE, I'LL POSSESS HER HEART TO DO IT.
'CAUSE I'VE GOT NO OTHER WAY.

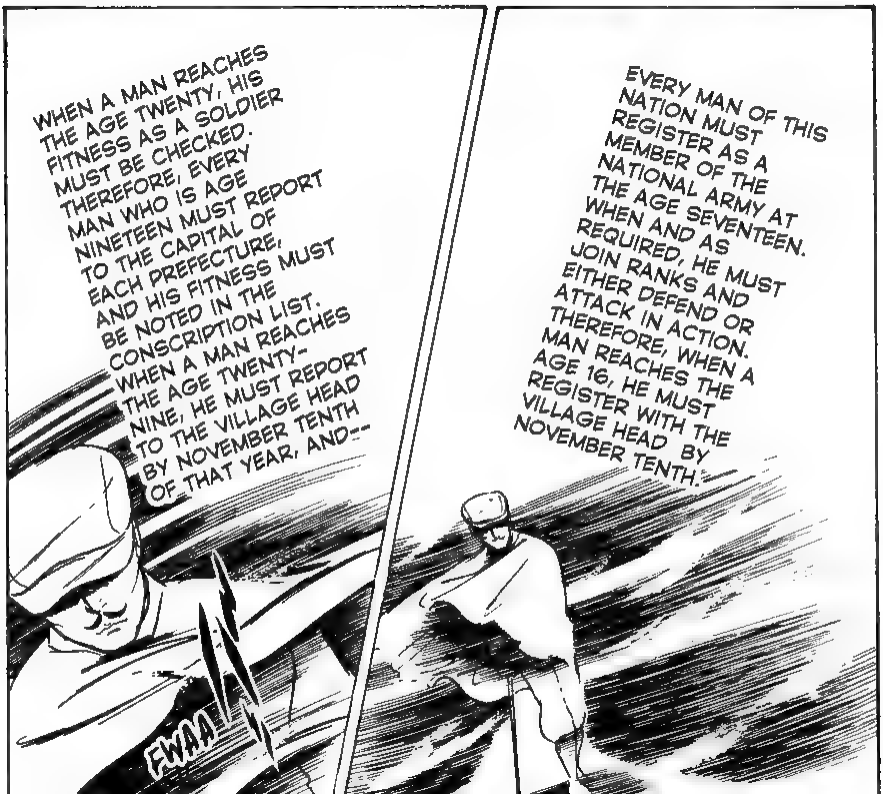
OTORA, WILL YOU LISTEN TO MY GRUDGE?
...

S-
SAYO!
MY POOR CHILD. SHE MUST CARRY ON WITH THE BURDEN OF MY HATE ON HER SHOULDER.
AND WILL YOU TELL HER EVERYTHING WHEN SHE GROWS UP?
I SAY, SHE'S A CHILD OF SYURA... A CHILD OF HELL.

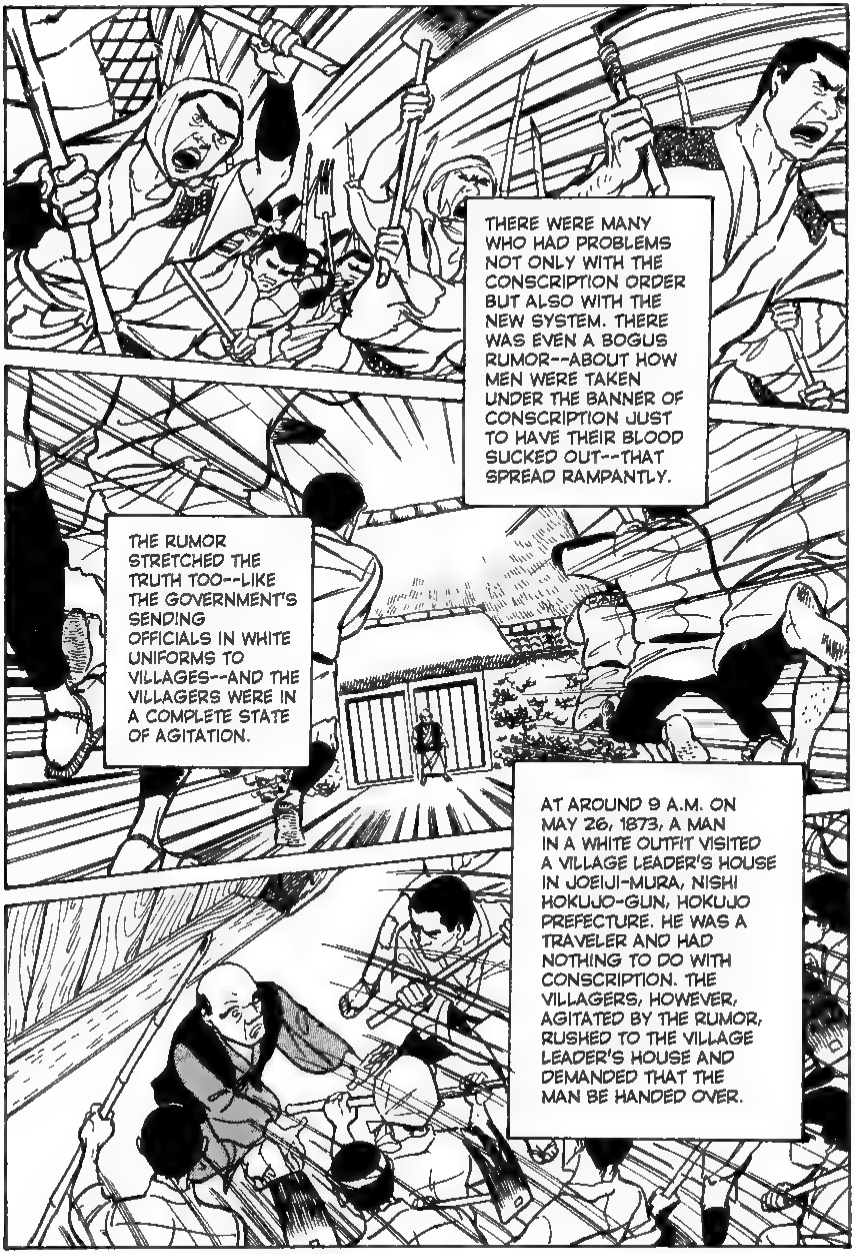
OF COURSE I HAVE. IT WAS A RIOT AGAINST THE DRAFT THAT ERUPTED IN HOKUJO PREFECTURE, ISN'T IT?
OTORA, HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE BLOOD TAX RIOT THAT TOOK PLACE IN 1873?

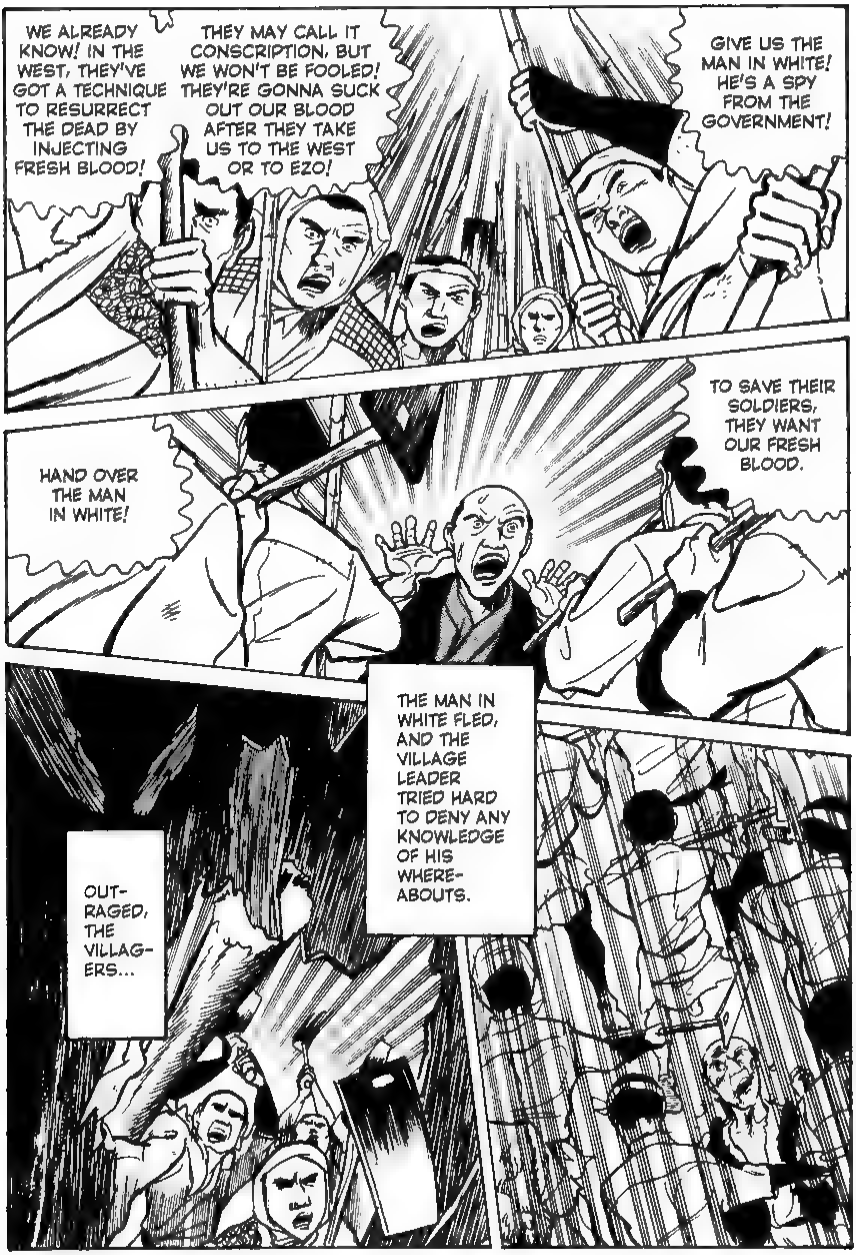
THAT'S WHAT STARTED IT.

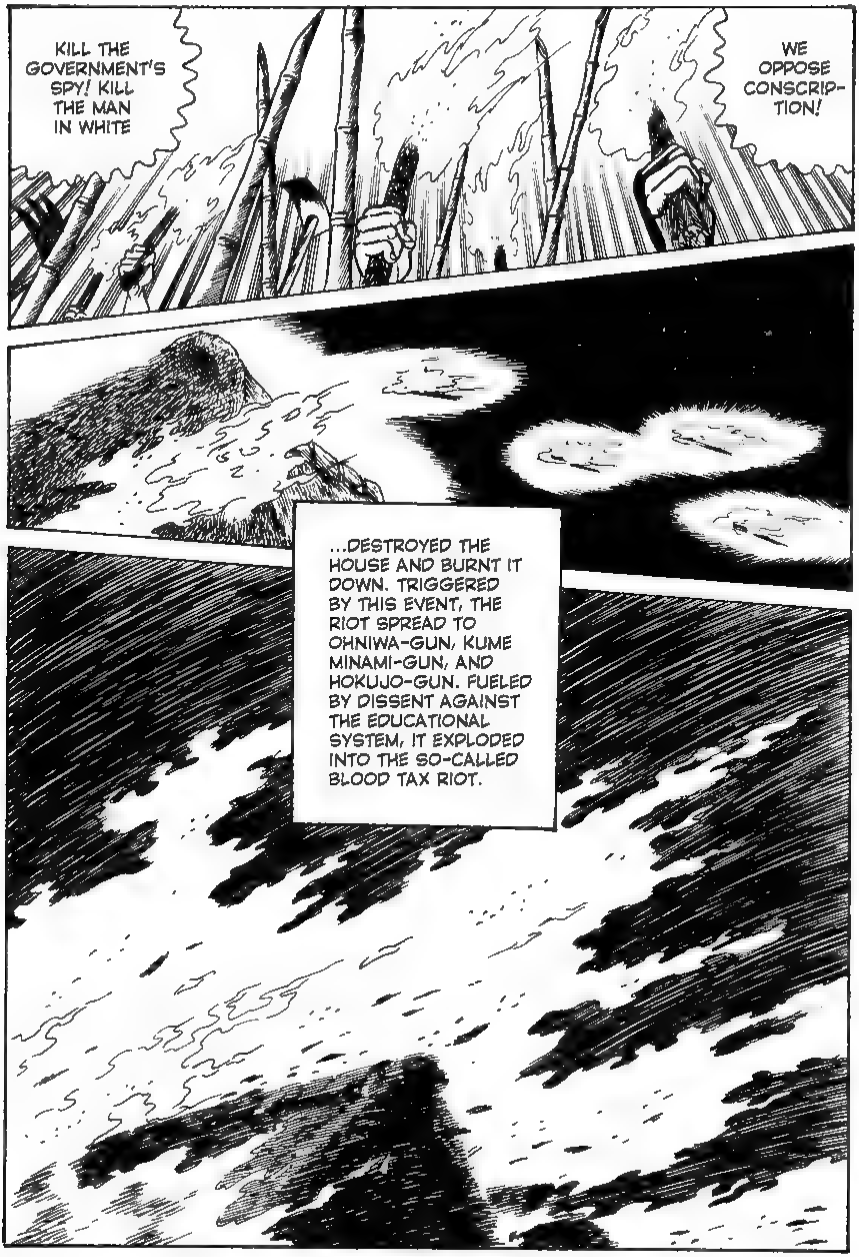
THAT YEAR, A CONSCRIPTION ORDER WAS ANNOUNCED. THE VILLAGE HEADS HAD TO PUT TOGETHER A BOOK LISTING THE NAMES OF ALL ADULTS ALONG WITH A CONSCRIPTION LIST.

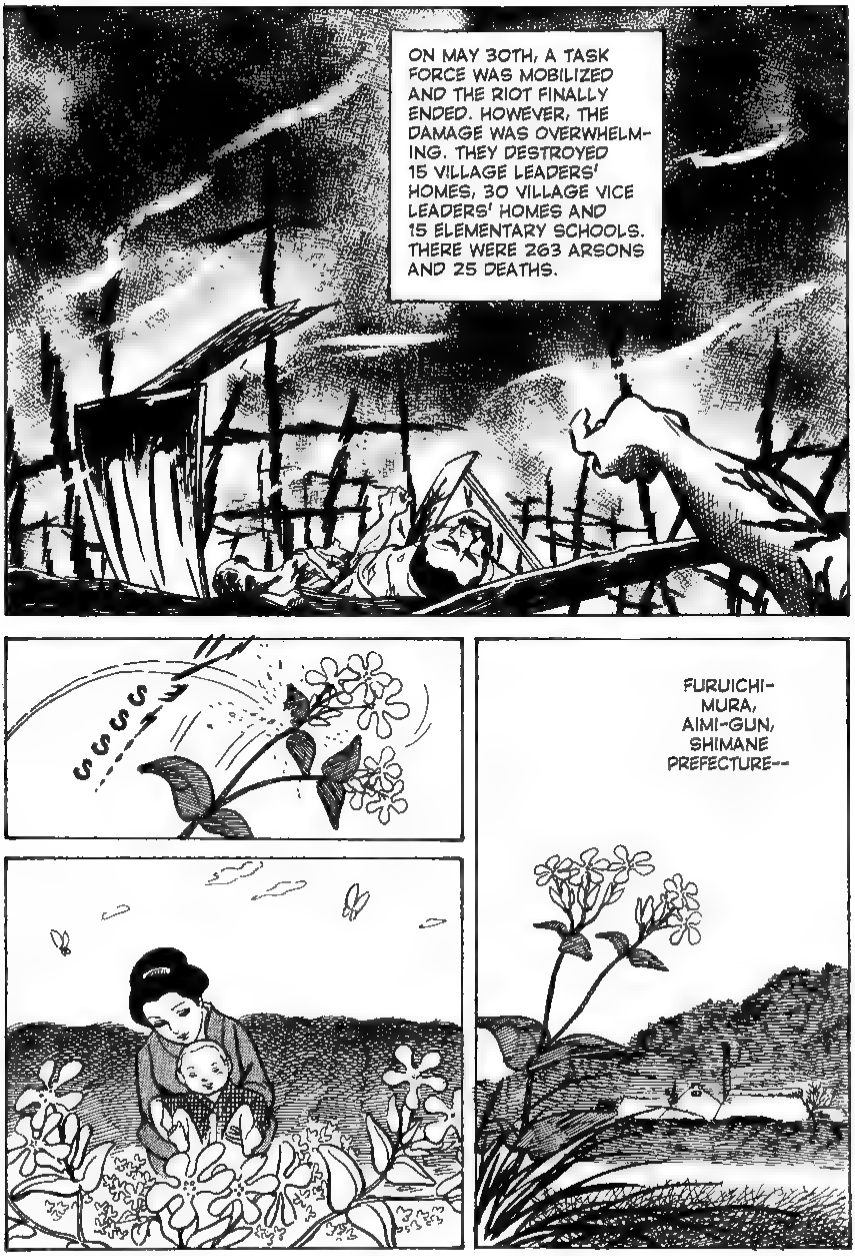

WHEN A MAN REACHES THE AGE TWENTY, HIS FITNESS AS A SOLDIER MUST BE CHECKED. THEREFORE, EVERY MAN WHO IS AGE NINETEEN MUST REPORT TO THE CAPITAL OF EACH PREFECTURE, AND HIS FITNESS MUST BE NOTED IN THE CONSCRIPTION LIST. WHEN A MAN REACHES THE AGE TWENTY-NINE, HE MUST REPORT TO THE VILLAGE HEAD BY NOVEMBER TENTH OF THAT YEAR, AND--
FWAA!
EVERY MAN OF THIS NATION MUST REGISTER AS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ARMY AT THE AGE SEVENTEEN. WHEN AND AS REQUIRED, HE MUST JOIN RANKS AND EITHER DEFEND OR ATTACK IN ACTION. THEREFORE, WHEN A MAN REACHES THE AGE 16, HE MUST REGISTER WITH THE VILLAGE HEAD BY NOVEMBER TENTH.

L-LOOK! HE'S HEADING TOWARD THE VILLAGE LEADER'S HOME.
OH--OH NO! THAT BASTARD IN WHITE! HE MUST'VE COME TO DRAFT US.
HE GOTTA BE A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL!
OHH!
GATHER EVERYONE! WE WON'T LET ANYONE GET DRAFTED. NO WAY!
THEY'LL SEND US TO THE WEST OR TO EZO AND KILL US.
THUM
THUMP


THERE WERE MANY WHO HAD PROBLEMS NOT ONLY WITH THE CONSCRIPTION ORDER BUT ALSO WITH THE NEW SYSTEM. THERE WAS EVEN A BOGUS RUMOR--ABOUT HOW MEN WERE TAKEN UNDER THE BANNER OF CONSCRIPTION JUST TO HAVE THEIR BLOOD SUCKED OUT--THAT SPREAD RAMPANTLY.
THE RUMOR STRETCHED THE TRUTH TOO--LIKE THE GOVERNMENT'S SENDING OFFICIALS IN WHITE UNIFORMS TO VILLAGES--AND THE VILLAGERS WERE IN A COMPLETE STATE OF AGITATION.
AT AROUND 9 A.M. ON MAY 26, 1873, A MAN IN A WHITE OUTFIT VISITED A VILLAGE LEADER'S HOUSE IN JOEIJI-MURA, NISHI HOKUJO-GUN, HOKUJO PREFECTURE. HE WAS A TRAVELER AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH CONSCRIPTION. THE VILLAGERS, HOWEVER, AGITATED BY THE RUMOR, RUSHED TO THE VILLAGE LEADER'S HOUSE AND DEMANDED THAT THE MAN BE HANDED OVER.


WE ALREADY KNOW! IN THE WEST, THEY'VE GOT A TECHNIQUE TO RESURRECT THE DEAD BY INJECTING FRESH BLOOD!
THEY MAY CALL IT CONSCRIPTION, BUT WE WON'T BE FOOLED! THEY'RE GONNA SUCK OUT OUR BLOOD AFTER THEY TAKE US TO THE WEST OR TO EZO!
GIVE US THE MAN IN WHITE! HE'S A SPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT!
HAND OVER THE MAN IN WHITE!
TO SAVE THEIR SOLDIERS, THEY WANT OUR FRESH BLOOD.
THE MAN IN WHITE FLED, AND THE VILLAGE LEADER TRIED HARD TO DENY ANY KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.
OUTRAGED, THE VILLAGERS...


KILL THE GOVERNMENT'S SPY! KILL THE MAN IN WHITE
WE OPPOSE CONSCRIP-TION!
...DESTROYED THE HOUSE AND BURNT IT DOWN. TRIGGERED BY THIS EVENT, THE RIOT SPREAD TO OHNIWA-GUN, KUME MINAMI-GUN, AND HOKUJO-GUN. FUELED BY DISSENT AGAINST THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, IT EXPLODED INTO THE SO-CALLED BLOOD TAX RIOT.

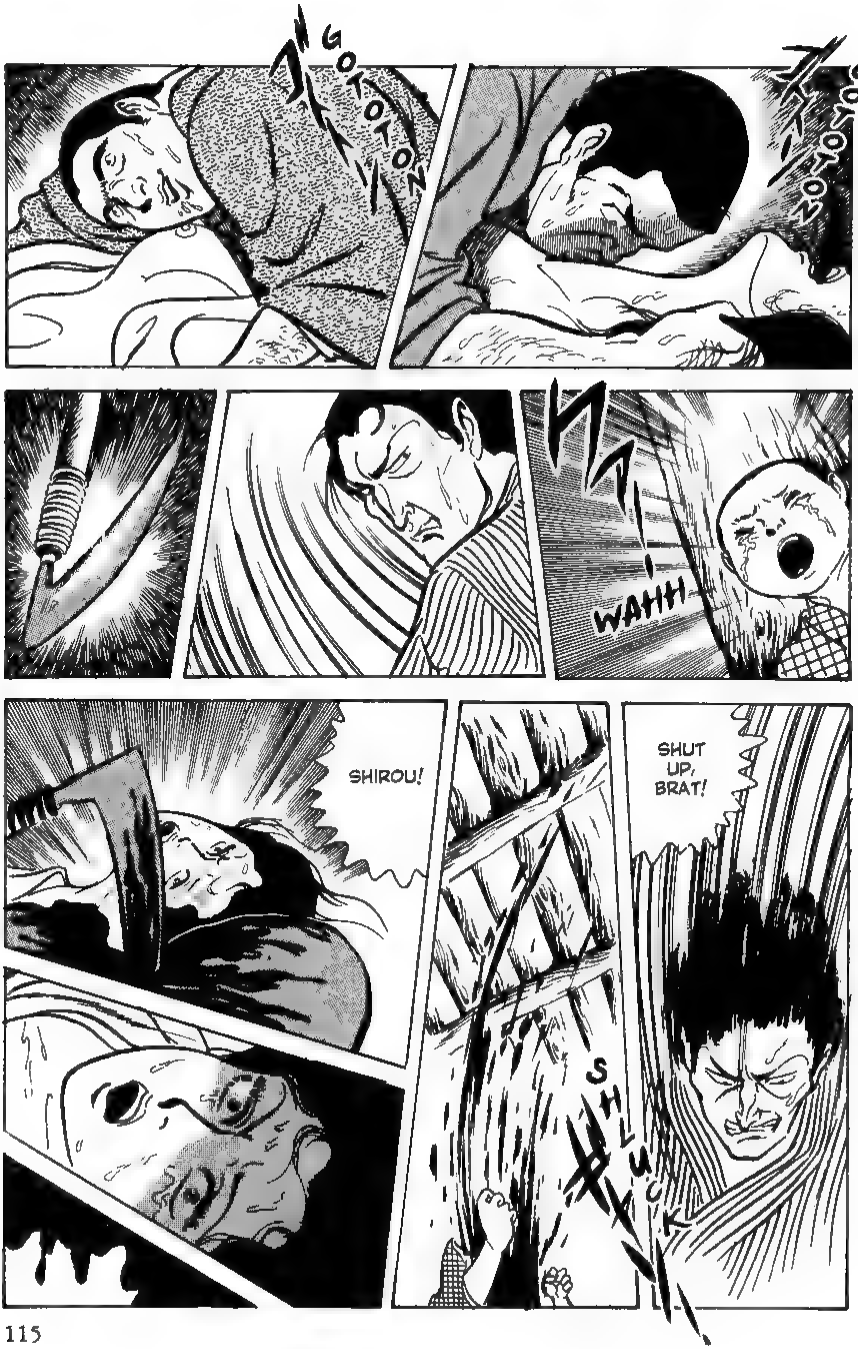

ON MAY 30TH, A TASK FORCE WAS MOBILIZED AND THE RIOT FINALLY ENDED. HOWEVER, THE DAMAGE WAS OVERWHELMING. THEY DESTROYED 15 VILLAGE LEADERS' HOMES, 30 VILLAGE VICE LEADERS' HOMES AND 15 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. THERE WERE 263 ARSONS AND 25 DEATHS.
SSSSS
FURUICHI-MURA, AIMI-GUN, SHIMANE PREFECTURE--

THUMP
THUM
THUM
HE'S THE MAN IN WHITE!
KILL HIM!
...
...

SPLUCHHH
OKONO KITAHAMA
TOKUICHI SHOE!
KLUCCH
HANZO TAKEMURA
GLUK
GISHIRO TSUKAMOTO
GUK
SWEET-HEART!
WH-WHY...

AAHH
W-WHY--! SWEET-HEART!
W-WAIT. WAIT A SEC.
LEAVE THIS WOMAN TO ME. I'VE GOTTA INVESTIGATE SOMETHING.
……

ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ


GOTOTON
GOTOTON
WAHH
SHIROU!
SHUT UP, BRAT!
SHUCK

SHIROU WAS ONLY FIVE YEARS OLD. IF HE WAS STILL ALIVE, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HER BROTHER.
MY HUSBAND WAS GOING TO TEACH AT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. HE WAS WEARING A WHITE OUTFIT-- THE SUIT HIS FRIEND, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM THE WEST, GAVE HIM.
IN THE CONSCRIPTION ORDER, THERE WAS A CLAUSE THAT ALLOWED PAYMENT TO BE EXCUSED FROM DUTY. SCHEMING TO PROFIT FROM IT, THE FOUR TOOK ACTION.
FOR A REPLACE-MENT FEE OF 270 YEN, ONE MAY BE EXCUSED FROM BOTH REGULAR DUTY AND BACKUP DUTY.
OO...
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS A PART OF THE BLOOD TAX RIOT-- AN UNFORTUNATE EVENT. BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE A HORRIBLE SCHEME TO PROFIT FROM IT!

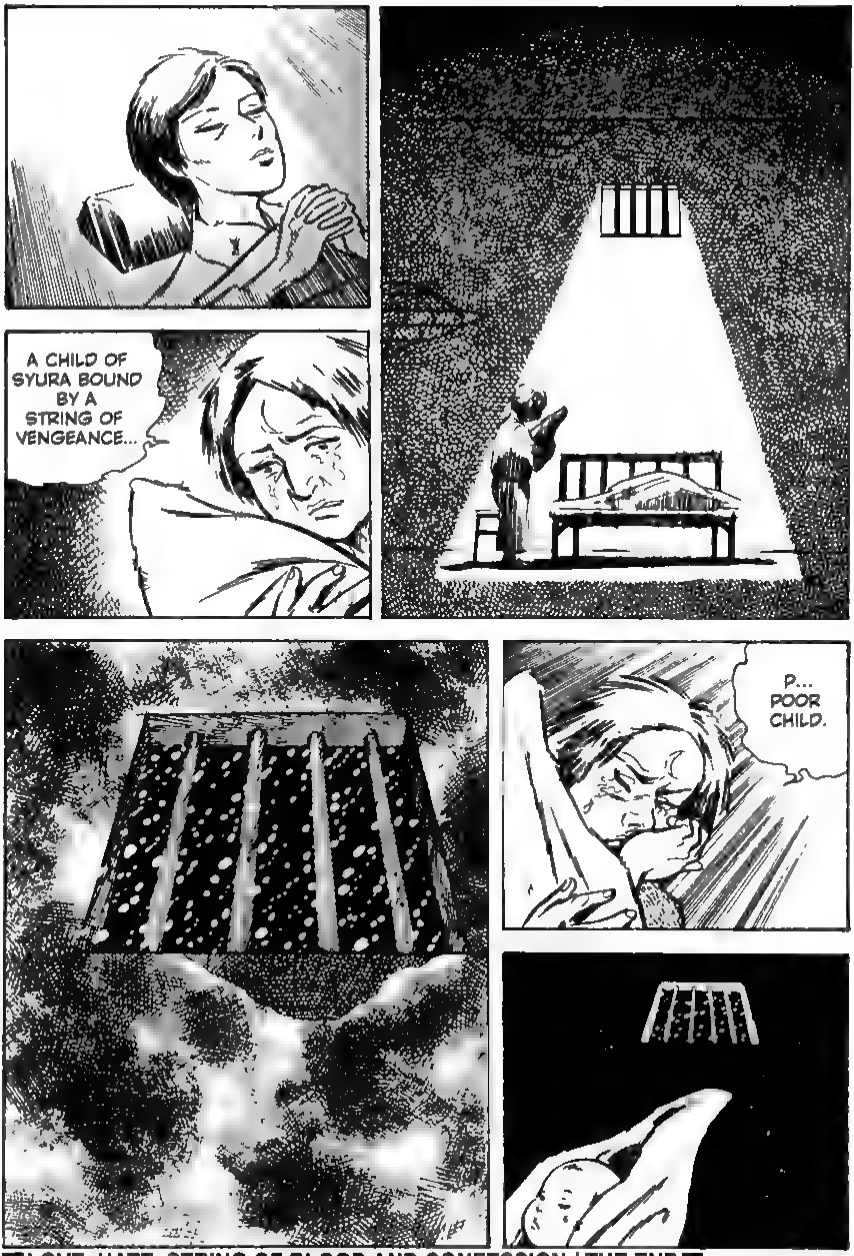
THEY KNEW MY HUSBAND WAS COMING, WEARING A WHITE OUTFIT, AND THEY STIRRED UP THE VILLAGERS.
"THEY MADE SURE THE VILLAGERS KILL MY HUSBAND. THEN THEY TOLD THEM THAT AFTER THEY QUESTIONED ME, THEY LEARNED THAT A TASK FORCE WAS GOING TO COME AND TAKE AWAY EVERY MAN 40 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER.
"THEY ALSO TOLD THEM THAT THEY COULD BE EXCUSED. ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS TO PAY 270 YEN. AND THEY COLLECTED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEN FROM THE VILLAGERS.
"I WAS RAPED BY THE THREE MEN FOR TWO DAYS AND NIGHTS... AND I LEARNED THAT IT WAS ALL PREMEDITATED.

"TOKUICH USED A FAKE NAME AND OPENED A RESTAURANT IN TOKYO.
"TOKUICHI WAS SMITTEN BY MY BODY AND PERSUADED HIS COHORTS NOT TO KILL ME. HE PROMISED THAT HE'D TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY.
"THEY RAN OFF AFTER THEY SPLIT THE MONEY THEY COLLECTED. IT WAS TOKUICHI SHOEI WHO TOOK ME TO TOKYO.
"I OBEYED HIM AS IF I'D LOST MY MIND, BUT I WAS ONLY WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO KILL HIM.
UGGHH

CHUKK
CHUKK
CHUKK
"AFTER I MURDERED TOKUICHI, I WANDERED ABOUT. ALL I HAD IN MIND WAS TO KILL THE REST OF 'EM. THAT'S WHEN I WAS CAUGHT.
"I PLAYED DUMB WITH THE POLICE. I DIDN'T SAY A WORD.
"I KNEW NOTHING COULD BE DONE EVEN IF I TOLD THEM ANYTHING."

MY VENGEANCE MUST BE DELIVERED TO G!SHIRO TSUKAMOTO, HANZO TAKEMURA, AND THE WOMAN... O-OKONO KITAHAMA. THE THREE--
S-SAYO!
O-OYUKI... T-TAKE MY REVENGE...
...FOR YOUR DADDY AND BROTHER... AND--AND... FOR ME...

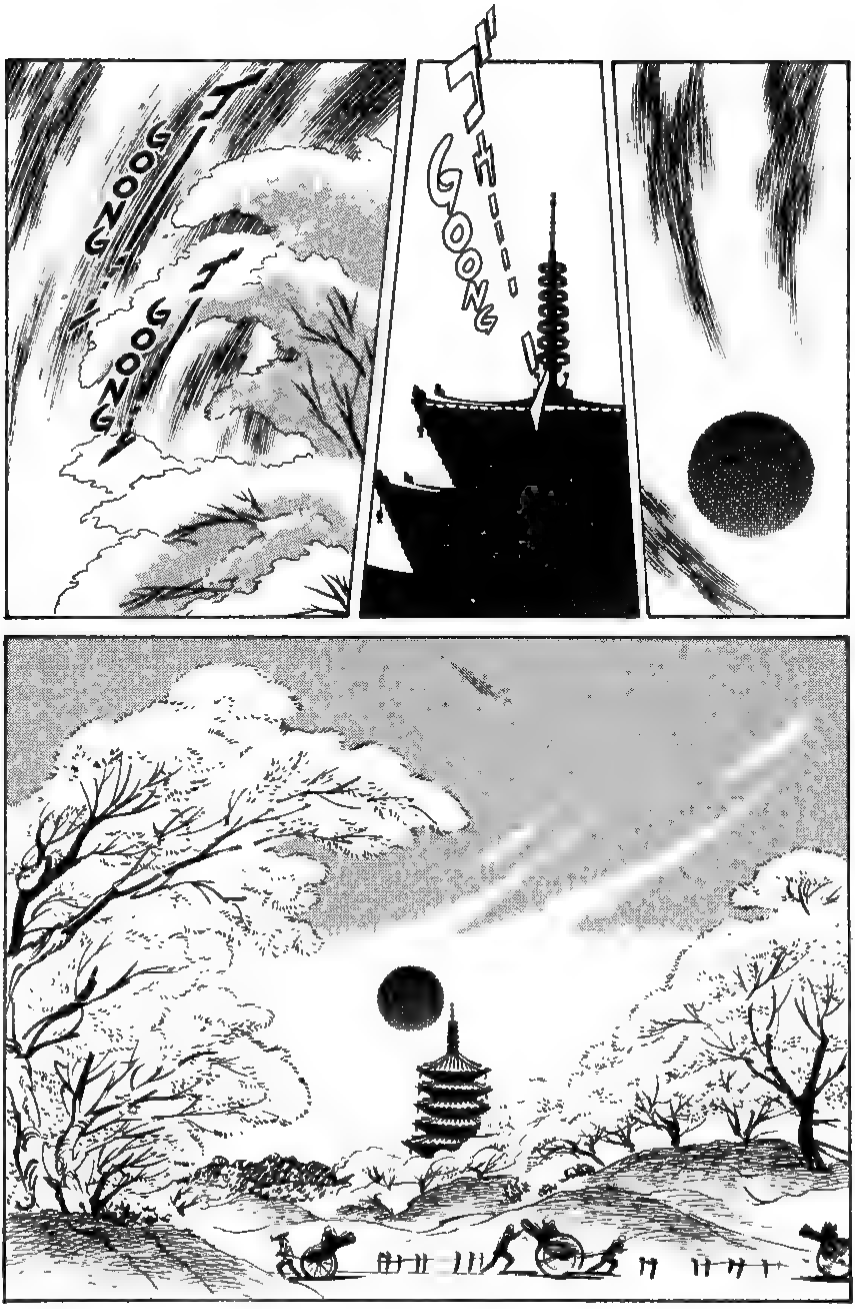
O...
...OYUKI.
...T-TO HAVE YOU DO THAT... I... I... GAVE BIRTH TO... YOU IN THIS PRISON.
HAA... AA...
S-SAYOOH!
WAAAA
WAAAA
WAAAA



■LOVE. HATE. STRING OF BLOOD AND CONFESSION / THE END■

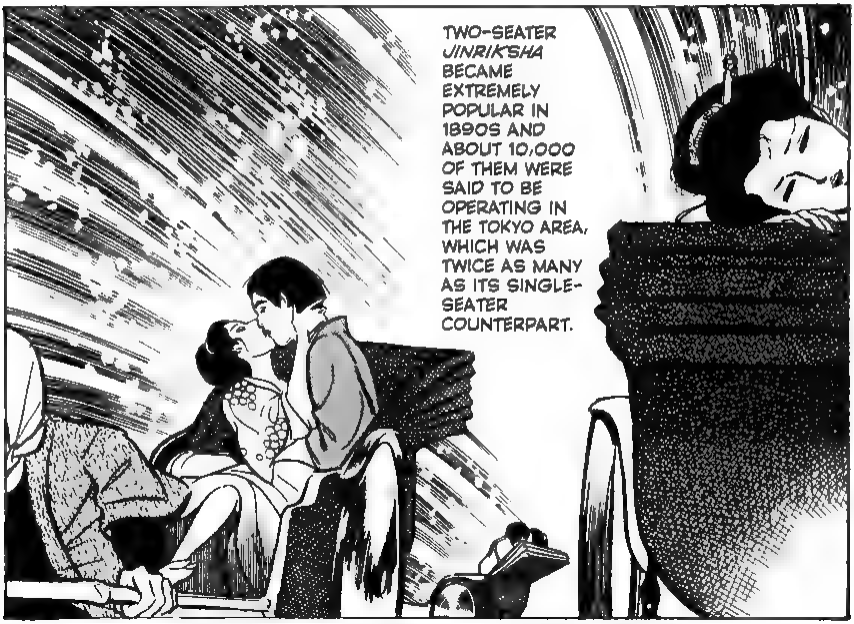
外題之四 死桜小袖白刃舞 一

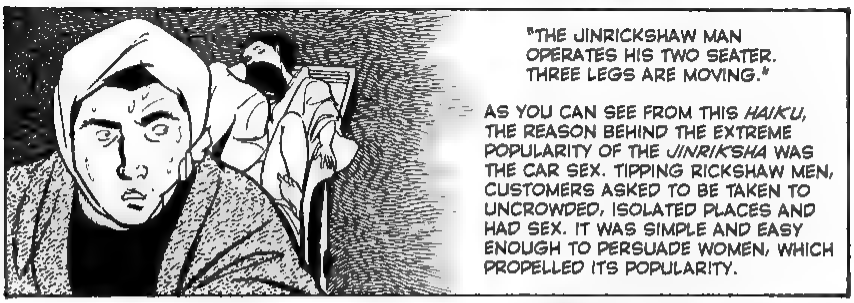
EPISODE 4
DEAD
CHERRY
BLOSSOMS
AND THE
DANCE
OF
SHORT
SLEEVE
WITH
WHITE
BLADE,
PART 1


GOONG...
GOONG...
GOONG...
GOONG!!

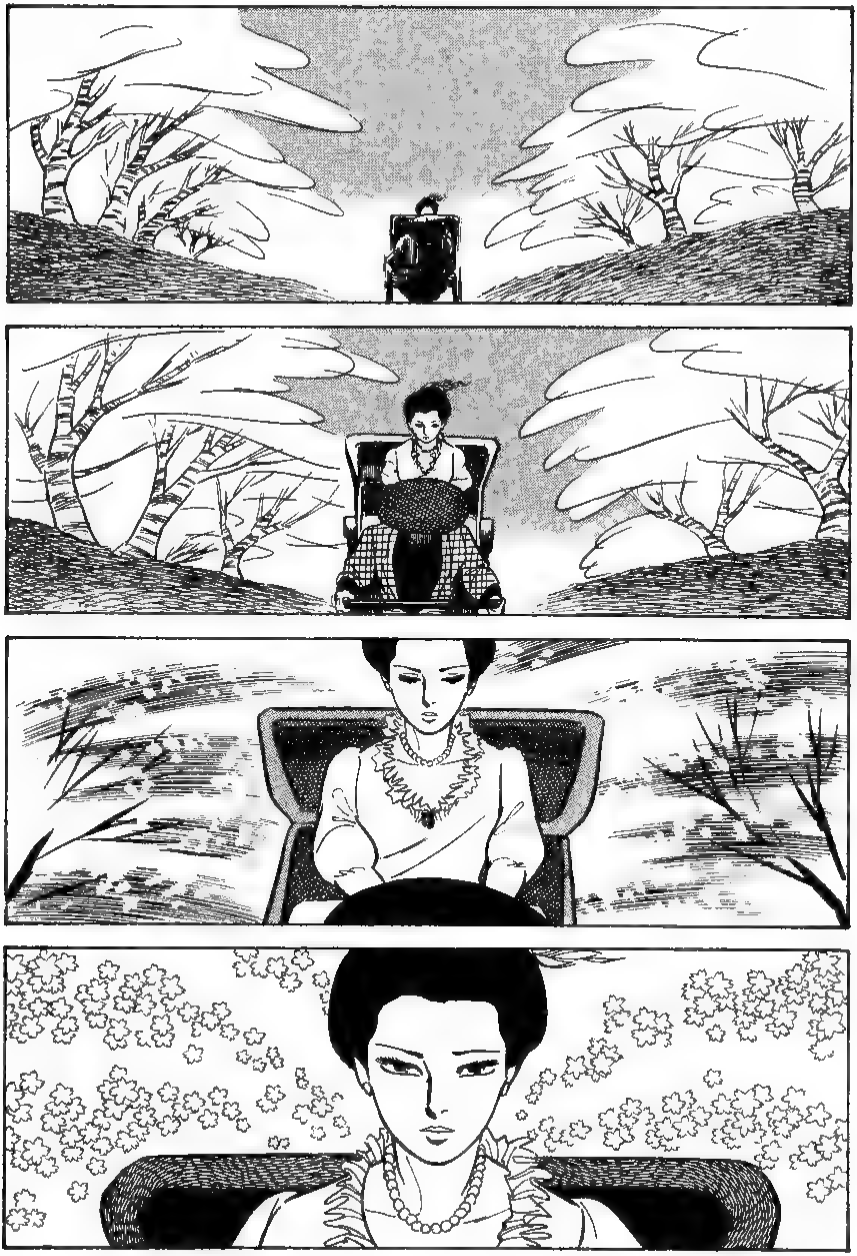
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA

RARARARA
RARARA


TWO-SEATER JINRIKSHA BECAME EXTREMELY POPULAR IN 1890S AND ABOUT 10,000 OF THEM WERE SAID TO BE OPERATING IN THE TOKYO AREA, WHICH WAS TWICE AS MANY AS ITS SINGLE-SEATER COUNTERPART.

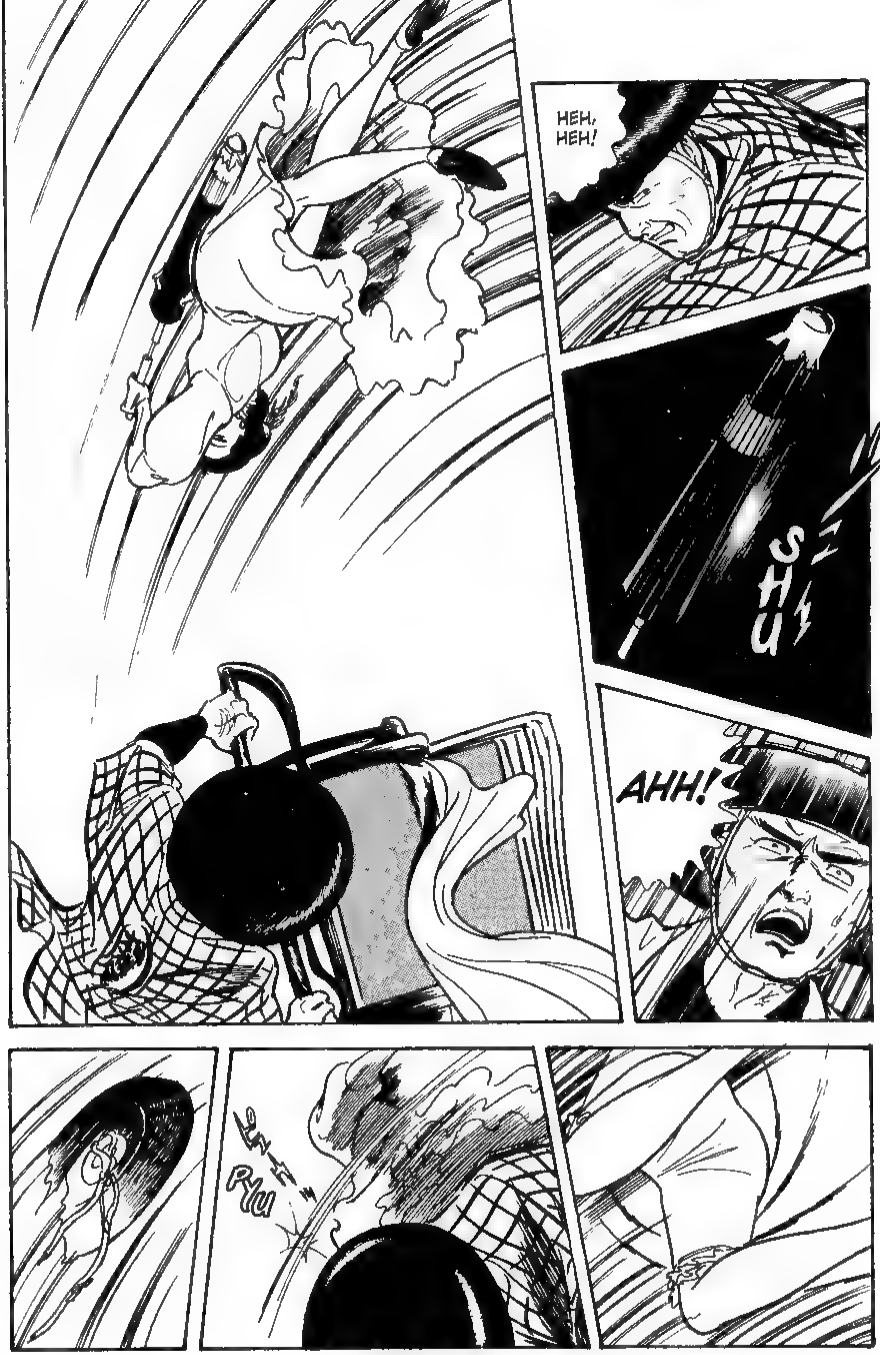

"THE JINRICKSHAW MAN OPERATES HIS TWO SEATER. THREE LEGS ARE MOVING."
AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS HAIKU, THE REASON BEHIND THE EXTREME POPULARITY OF THE JINRIKSHA WAS THE CAR SEX. TIPPING RICKSHAW MEN, CUSTOMERS ASKED TO BE TAKEN TO UNCROWDED, ISOLATED PLACES AND HAD SEX. IT WAS SIMPLE AND EASY ENOUGH TO PERSUADE WOMEN, WHICH PROPELLED ITS POPULARITY.

WHAM
EEEK
THE RICKSHAW MAN HAD TO RUN WITH A HARD-ON, AND THEREFORE IT BECAME MORE COMMON THAN NOT FOR SOMEONE LIKE HIM, WHO WAS OFTEN IN A STATE OF EXTREME FRUSTRATION AND EXCITEMENT, TO ASSAULT HIS CUSTOMER AND RUN OFF WITH THE WOMAN. SUCH CRIMES WERE A BYPRODUCT OF CAR SEX'S POPULARITY.

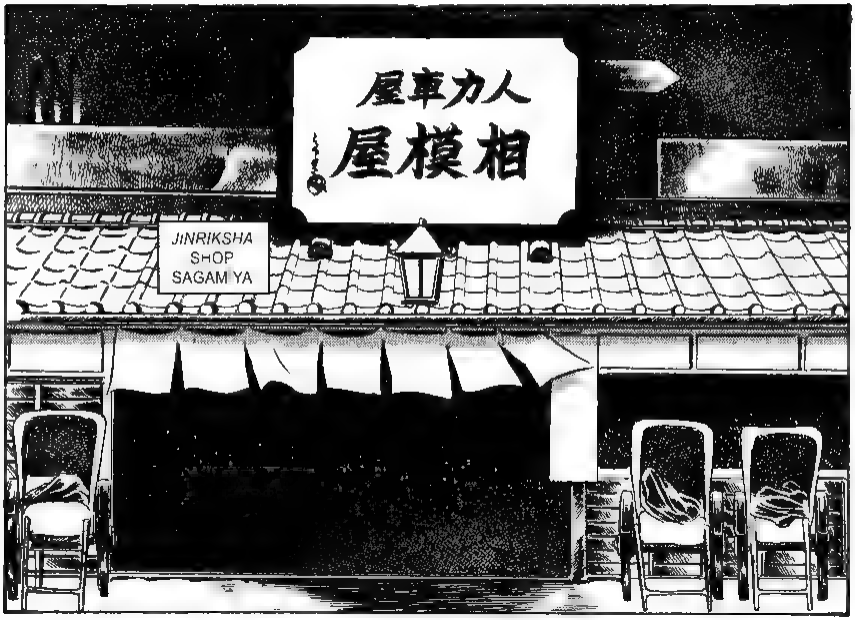


...
...
I WORK AS A RICKSHAW MAN NOW, BUT I USED TO BE A YAKUZA MAN, WHO EARNED THE NAME MATSUZO OF KISUGURE, YOU KNOW.
IN FACT...IT WAS I WHO TOLD MY BOSS ABOUT YOU AFTER I HEARD RUMORS ABOUT YOU...YOU KNOW?
I WANNA SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE...AND WHY YOU'RE CALLED LADY SNOW-BLOOD.
AND I FEEL I'M RESPONSIBLE, YOU SEE?
GAA
PARDON ME!

RA
RA
RA
RA
RA
RA
HEH, HEH, HEH! AFTER I, MATSUZO, PERFORM THIS CYCLONE SPIN, NO MATTER HOW WELL-TRAINED, EVERYONE FALLS WITH THEIR EYES ROLLED UP.
YOU'RE A WOMAN TO BOOT. HEH, HEH, IT WAS YOUR MISTAKE TO LET YOUR GUARD DOWN AND TAKE A RIDE ON A RICKSHAW.


HEH, HEH!
SHU
AHH!
PIU

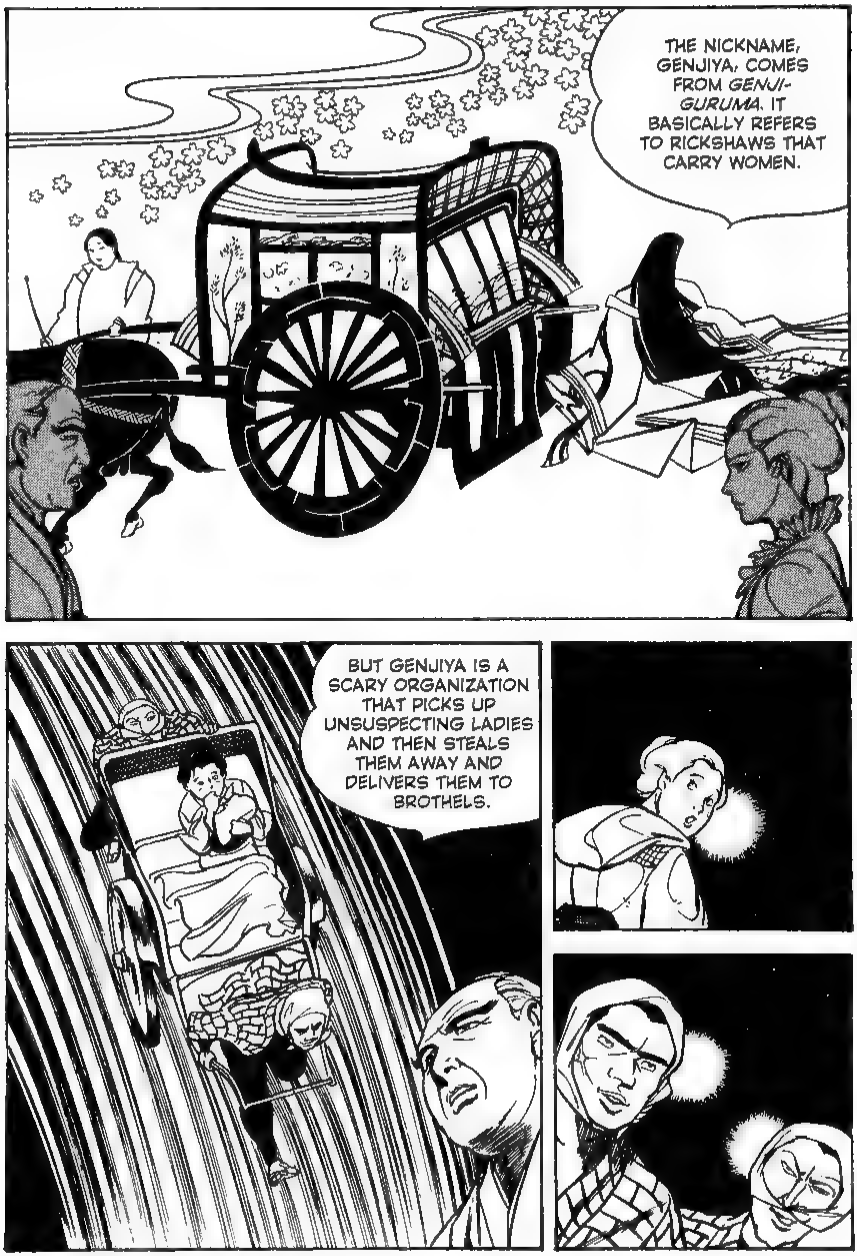
CRNNCH
KCHNK
EEEK


人力車屋
相模屋
JINRIKSHA
SHOP
SAGAMIYA

GARA
GARA
GARA

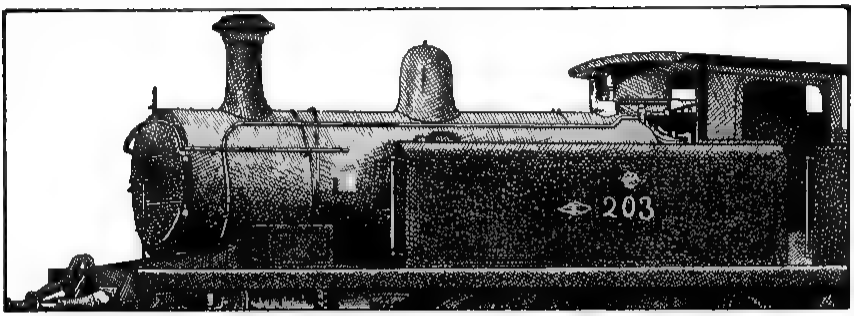
WSSS
HOH...

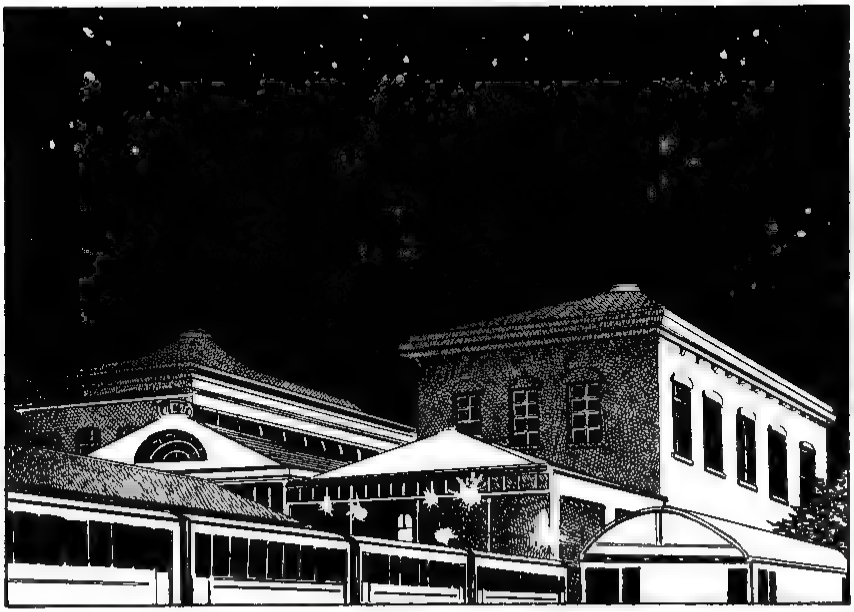
...
...
MY FATHER, TOKUJIRO, WAS THE ONE WHO COMMERCIALIZED THE FIRST TRIAL VERSION OF A RICKSHAW IN 1870.
EVER SINCE, WE'VE WORKED HARD TO PLEASE OUR CUSTOMERS AND DEVELOP OUR RICKSHAW BUSINESS.
BUT THE PROBLEM IS GENJIYA.
THERE ARE CRIMINAL RICKSHAW MEN WHO PICK UP CUSTOMERS THAT ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH TOKYO AREA, TAKE THEM AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE AND DEMAND OUTRAGEOUS FEES. I SAY WE CAN POLICE THEM AND IT, IN ITSELF, IS NOT A BIG DEAL.
BUT AFTER THE TWO-SEATER BECAME POPULAR, A SERIES OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES FOLLOWED AND WE LOST THE TRUST OF OUR CUSTOMERS.
...
...


THE NICKNAME, GENJIYA, COMES FROM *GENJI-GURUMA*. IT BASICALLY REFERS TO RICKSHAWS THAT CARRY WOMEN.
BUT GENJIYA IS A SCARY ORGANIZATION THAT PICKS UP UNSUSPECTING LADIES AND THEN STEALS THEM AWAY AND DELIVERS THEM TO BROTHELS.

IF ANYONE TRIES TO ESCAPE, THEY RESORT TO VIOLENCE, AND AT TIMES RAPE THEM IN SOME LONELY PLACE.
THEY APPROACH WOMEN WHO HAVE RUN AWAY FROM HOME OR WHO ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE STREETS. USING CLEVER WORDS, THEY LURE THEM ONTO THEIR VEHICLES AND SELL THEM TO BROTHELS.
I'M SURE YOU CAN IMAGINE WHAT TROUBLE THEY'RE CAUSING TO THE HONEST RICKSHAW BUSINESS OWNERS LIKE US.
THE PROBLEM IS, EVEN AFTER WE ASKED THE POLICE TO HELP, THEY WERE OF NO USE.
THEY ENDED UP GETTING BRIBED AFTER ALL ANYWAY.
THEY, OF COURSE, WORK UNDER YAKUZA. THE ONE WHO'S CONTROLLING GENJIYA IS AND MOST OF THE CRIMINAL RICKSHAW MEN ARE FROM...
...THE SHIMAYA FAMILY OF UENO.

SO, WE, THE RICKSHAW BUSINESS OWNERS, GOT TOGETHER AND DECIDED THAT WE MUST FIND THE WAY TO SAVE OUR BUSINESS OURSELVES.
PLEASE...
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SLAY KOTOZO SHIMAYA AND DESTROY HIS TERRITORY.
...
...


203



新橋駅
SHINBASHI
STATION

待合室
WA TING
ROOM

外題之四

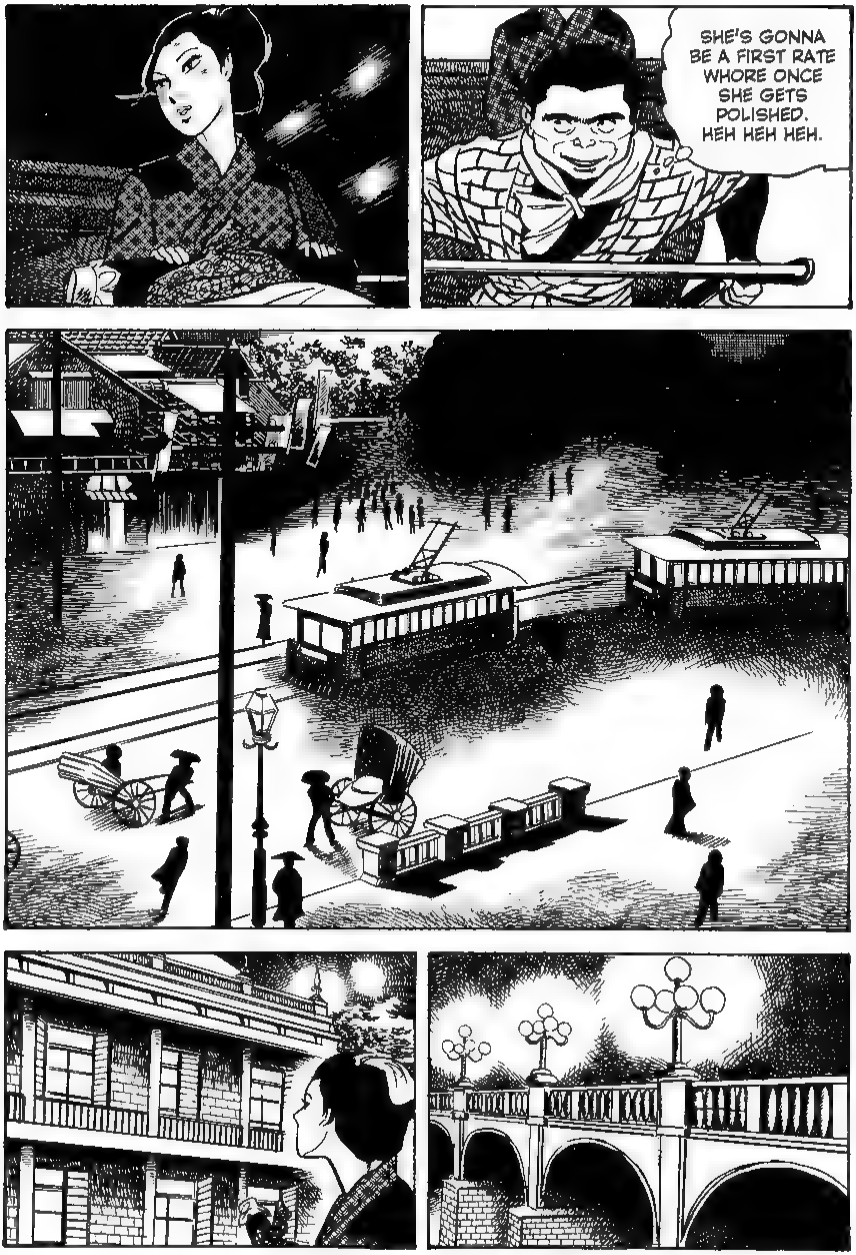
死桜小袖白刃舞 二

EPISODE 4
DEAD CHERRY BLOSSOMS AND THE DANCE OF SHORT SLEEVE WITH WHITE BLADE, PART 2

WHAT'S WRONG, YOUNG WOMAN?
TAP!
TAP!
YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE NOW. ARE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE?

SO, WHAT'S THE ADDRESS OF THAT UNCLE OF YOURS?
I NOTICED YOU A WHILE BACK AND THOUGHT MAYBE SOMETHING LIKE THAT WAS UP.
GEEZ, IT'S ALREADY WAY PAST THE TIME YOU PROMISED TO MEET.
TOO BAD, BUT THIS ISN'T THE SPOT WHERE YOU WERE TO MEET HIM. IT'S THE OPPOSITE SIDE.
ALL RIGHT. WHY DON'T I GIVE YOU A LIFT? TOKYO IS A DANGEROUS PLACE, YOU KNOW. LET ME TAKE YOU ON MY RICKSHAW.
AH, IT'S IMADO. THAT'S NEAR MY PLACE.

WOW! IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL JINRIKSHA?
WHAT A STRANGE THING TO SAY.
WANTED TO DRAW A PICTURE ON A RICK-SHAW?
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN RICKSHAW BEFORE?
OH WELL. JUST GET ON!
NOPE! I'VE COME TO TOKYO ONLY BECAUSE I WANTED TO DRAW A PICTURE ON IT.

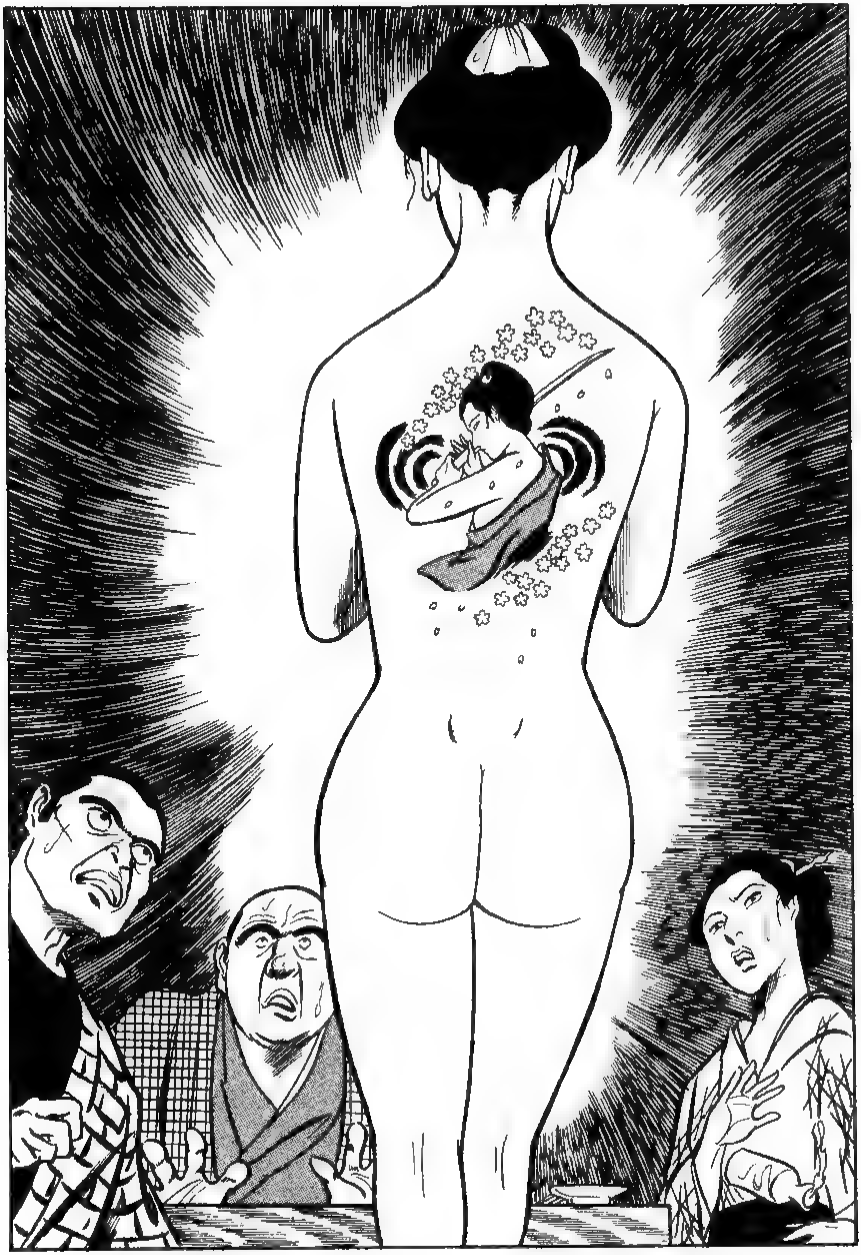

SHE'S GONNA BE A FIRST RATE WHORE ONCE SHE GETS POLISHED. HEH HEH HEH.

GARARARA
HEY, WE'RE HERE NOW!
?

NEVER MIND. JUST COME!
WH- WHERE'RE WE--?
馬屋
馬屋
HOH!
WHERE DID YOU PICK HER UP?
TETSU-ANI! SHE'S A FIRST RATE PIECE OF ASS!

TINK
AT SHINBASHI! DAMN GOOD, ISN'T SHE? SHE'S EXCEPTIONAL. HEE, HEE, HEE.
YES, SIR! SHE'S AN ODD WENCH, SIR.
THIS IS SOME QUIET DAME.
WHEN SHE'S GETTING ABDUCTED AND ABOUT TO BE MADE INTO A WHORE, ALL SHE TALKS ABOUT IS RICKSHAWS.
SHE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT SOME WEIRD STUFF LIKE PAINTING ON RICKSHAWS.

YES, SIR.
HMM. STRIP HER NAKED.
?!
I CAN GET NAKED WITHOUT YOUR HELP. I'M GLAD YOU WANNA SEE IT.
?!
SSSH
IF YOU LIKE THE PICTURE ON MY BODY, WILL YOU LET ME PAINT IT ON RICKSHAWS TOO?
FLUP
WHISH



MMM...
THIS IS WHAT MY PA DREW. I CAN DRAW BETTER.

Y-YOU DREW THEM ALL?
HMMM... I-INCREDIBLE!
I GET EXCITED JUST BY THINKING ABOUT THE RICKSHAWS WITH MY PAINTINGS RUSHING THROUGH THE STREETS OF TOKYO.
YEP, I DID. MY LIFE-LONG DREAM IS TO PAINT PICTURES LIKE THESE ON RICKSHAWS.
..?!
THAT'S WHY I'VE COME TO TOKYO, HOPING TO STAY WITH MY UNCLE. BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE MY LUCK TO MEET THE MASTER OF A RICKSHAW SHOP AND HAVE MY DREAM COME TRUE SO FAST.
PLEASE LET ME PAINT THE PICTURES ON YOUR RICKSHAWS. I'LL USE LACQUERS. THAT WAY IT'LL STAY EVEN AFTER IT RAINS. I'M SURE YOUR CUSTOMERS WOULD LIKE IT TOO.

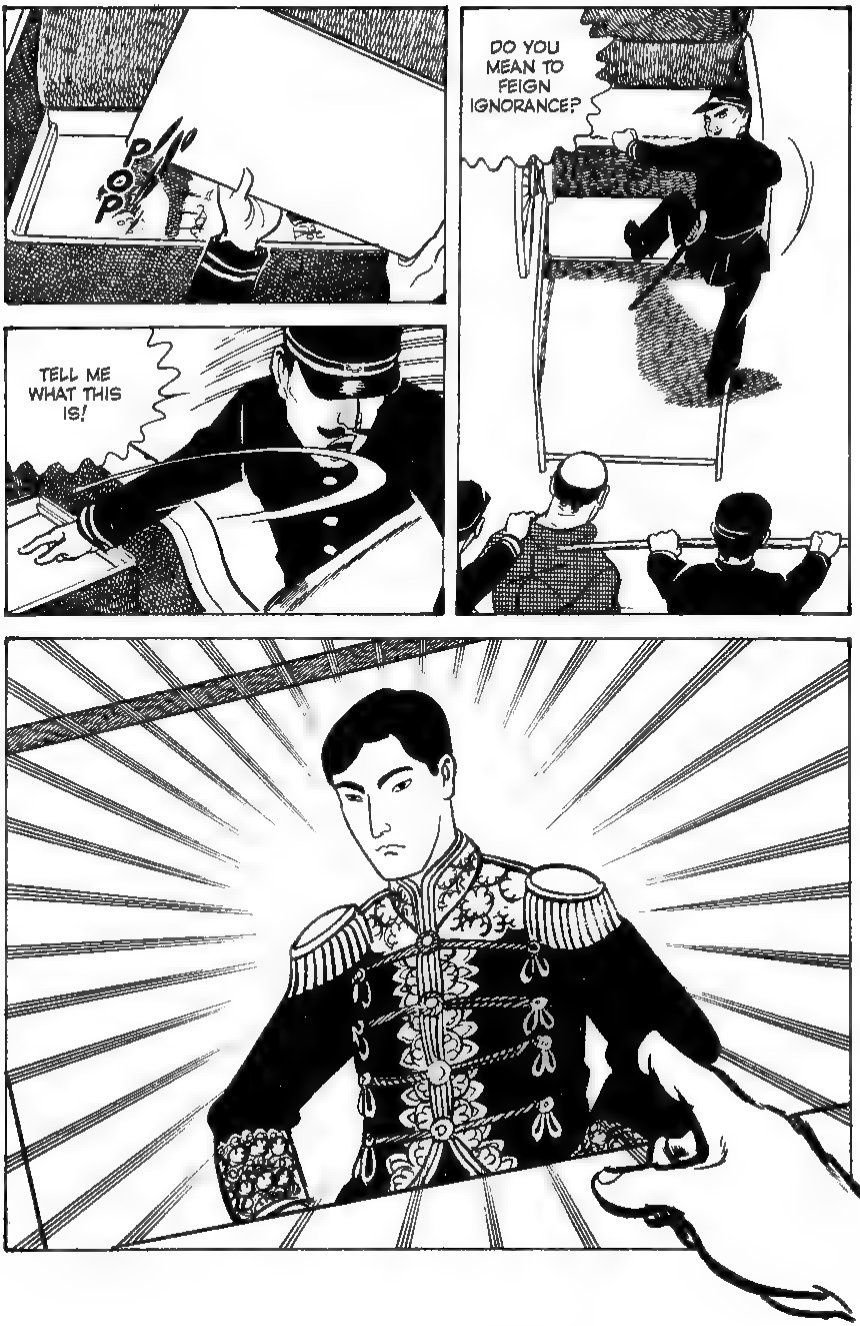
Y...YOU MEAN, YOU'RE GONNA LET HER?
I...I SEE. THAT'S AN IDEA. I BET IT'S GONNA BE POPULAR. THE CUSTOMERS WILL LINE UP TO RIDE ON THE RICKSHAWS WITH THESE LACQUERED PICTURES!
WE'LL MAKE TONS OF MONEY JUST FROM THE PAINTED ONES ALONE. GYORO TETSU, WHAT AN AWESOME GOLDEN EGG YOU'VE PICKED UP!
YEAH, I'M GONNA HAVE HER DRAW THE BEST! WHORES' MONEY WILL BE NOTHING COMPARED WITH WHAT THIS WILL EARN.
CK

WHAT MASTERY... HMM. HMM.

TA
DAH!

GTH
ARARARARARA
HMPH!
WILL YOU SEND SIX RICK-SHAWS FOR THE WEDDING TOMORROW?
A PAINTED RICKSHAW PLEASE!
I WANT THE PAINTED RICKSHAWS! TWO OF THEM!

WHAM!
ARE YOU KOTOZO SHIMAYA?
JAA
HOW DARE YOU DRAW FORBIDDEN PICTURES ON YOUR RICKSHAW!
Y-YES, SIR.
WH-WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT!? WHAT THE--
YOUR CRIME DESERVES THE DEATH PENALTY.
JAAAA

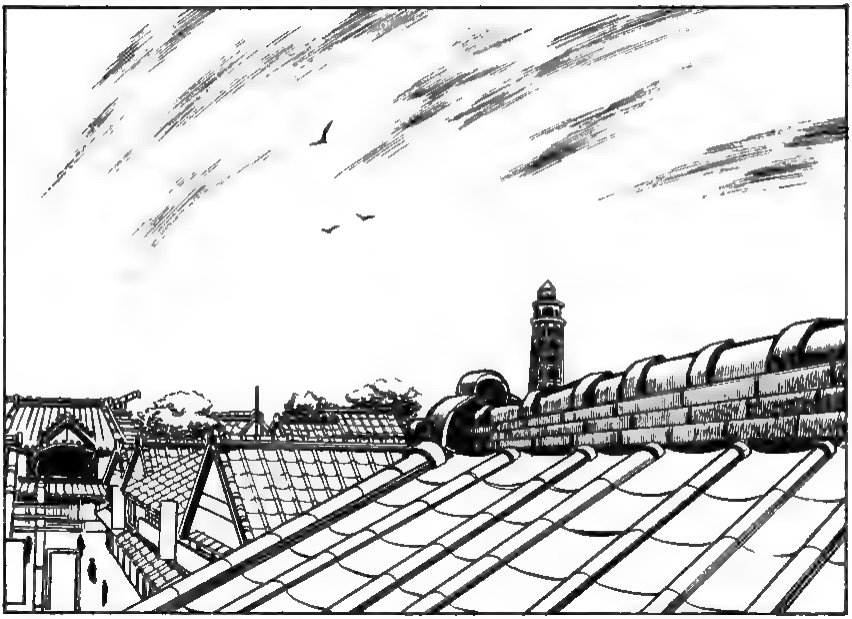

POP
DO YOU MEAN TO FEIGN IGNORANCE?
TELL ME WHAT THIS IS!

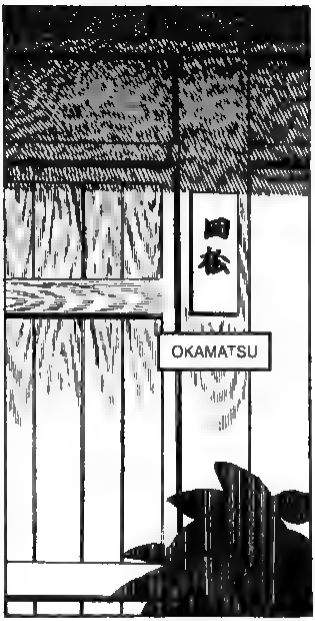
OHH.
AFTER WE RECEIVED AN ACCUSATION AGAINST YOU, WE INVESTIGATED ONLY TO FIND THAT YOU LET THE LIKENESS OF OUR HIGHNESS BE DRAWN ON A PLACE LIKE THIS!
THUD

MMM... HE'LL BE HANGED TO DEATH, I SAY. NO ESCAPING THAT.

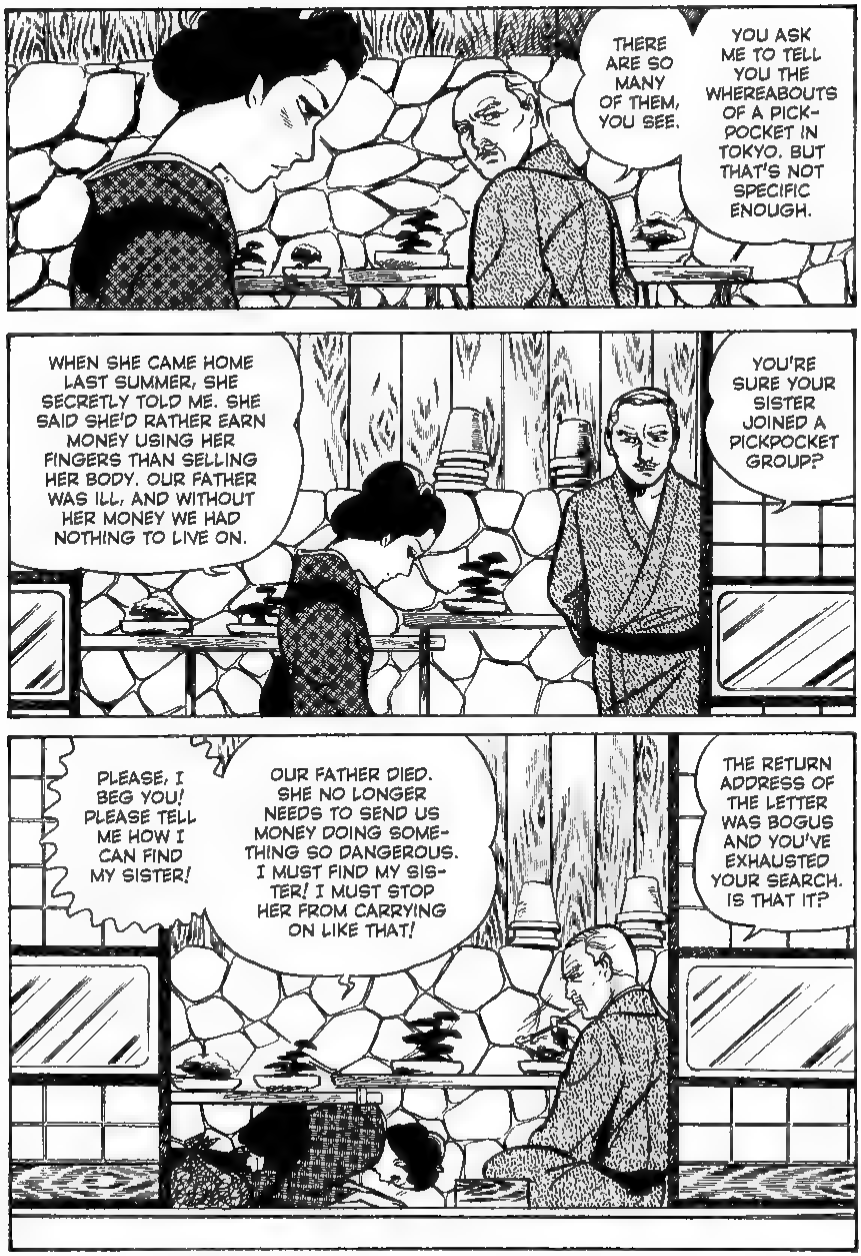
外題之五 鹿鳴館殺人八景 一

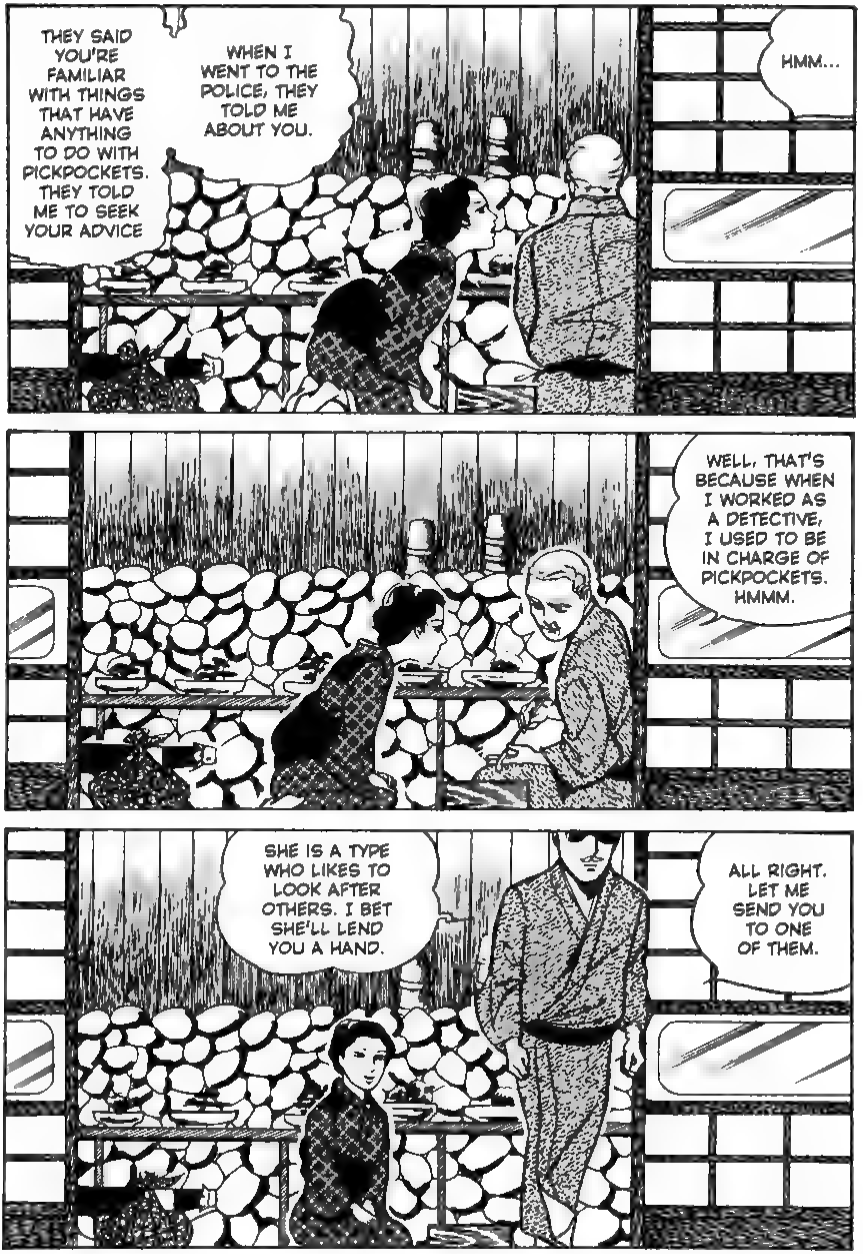
EPISODE 5
ROKUMEIKAN
MURDER
PANORAMA,
PART 1

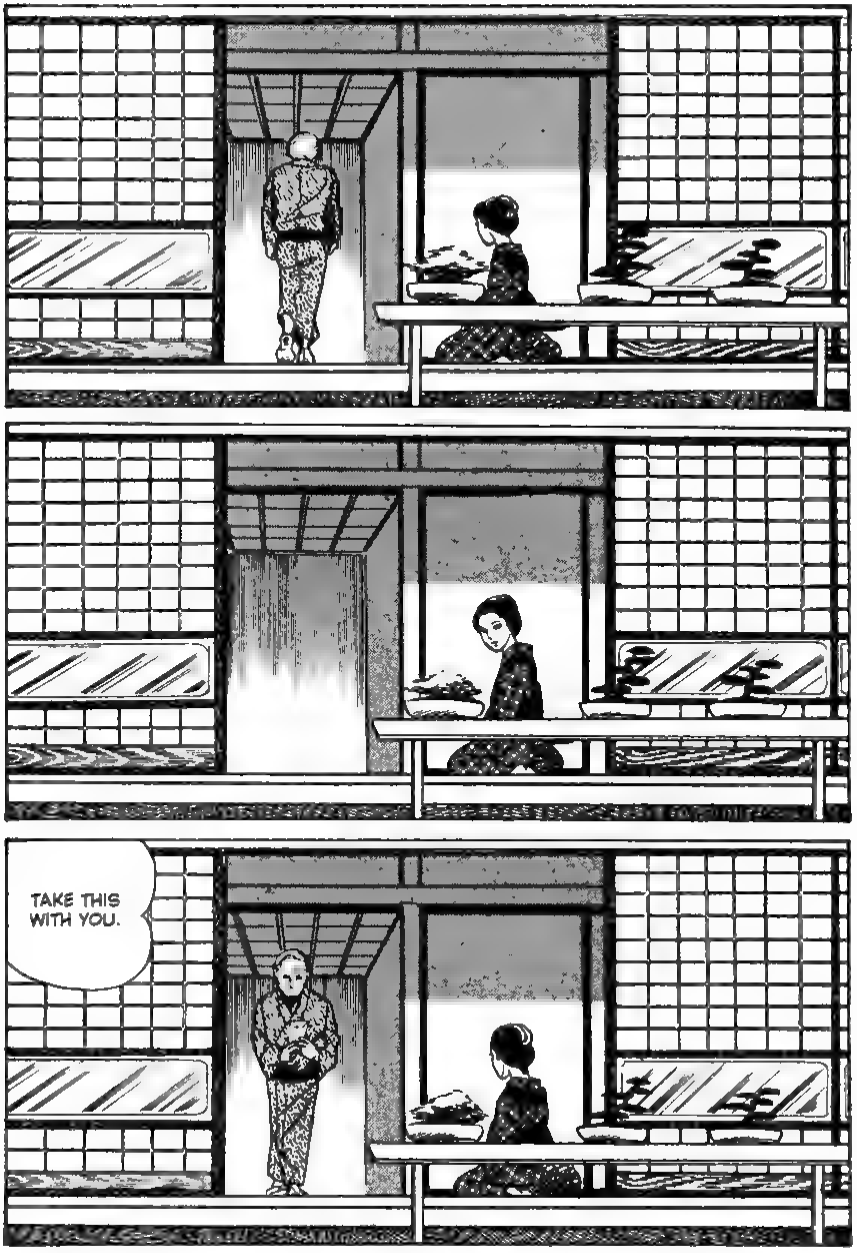



岡松
OKAMATSU

HMMM.


YOU ASK ME TO TELL YOU THE WHEREABOUTS OF A PICK-POCKET IN TOKYO. BUT THAT'S NOT SPECIFIC ENOUGH.
THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM, YOU SEE.
YOU'RE SURE YOUR SISTER JOINED A PICKPOCKET GROUP?
WHEN SHE CAME HOME LAST SUMMER, SHE SECRETLY TOLD ME. SHE SAID SHE'D RATHER EARN MONEY USING HER FINGERS THAN SELLING HER BODY. OUR FATHER WAS ILL, AND WITHOUT HER MONEY WE HAD NOTHING TO LIVE ON.
THE RETURN ADDRESS OF THE LETTER WAS BOGUS AND YOU'VE EXHAUSTED YOUR SEARCH. IS THAT IT?
OUR FATHER DIED. SHE NO LONGER NEEDS TO SEND US MONEY DOING SOMETHING SO DANGEROUS. I MUST FIND MY SISTER! I MUST STOP HER FROM CARRYING ON LIKE THAT!
PLEASE, I BEG YOU! PLEASE TELL ME HOW I CAN FIND MY SISTER!

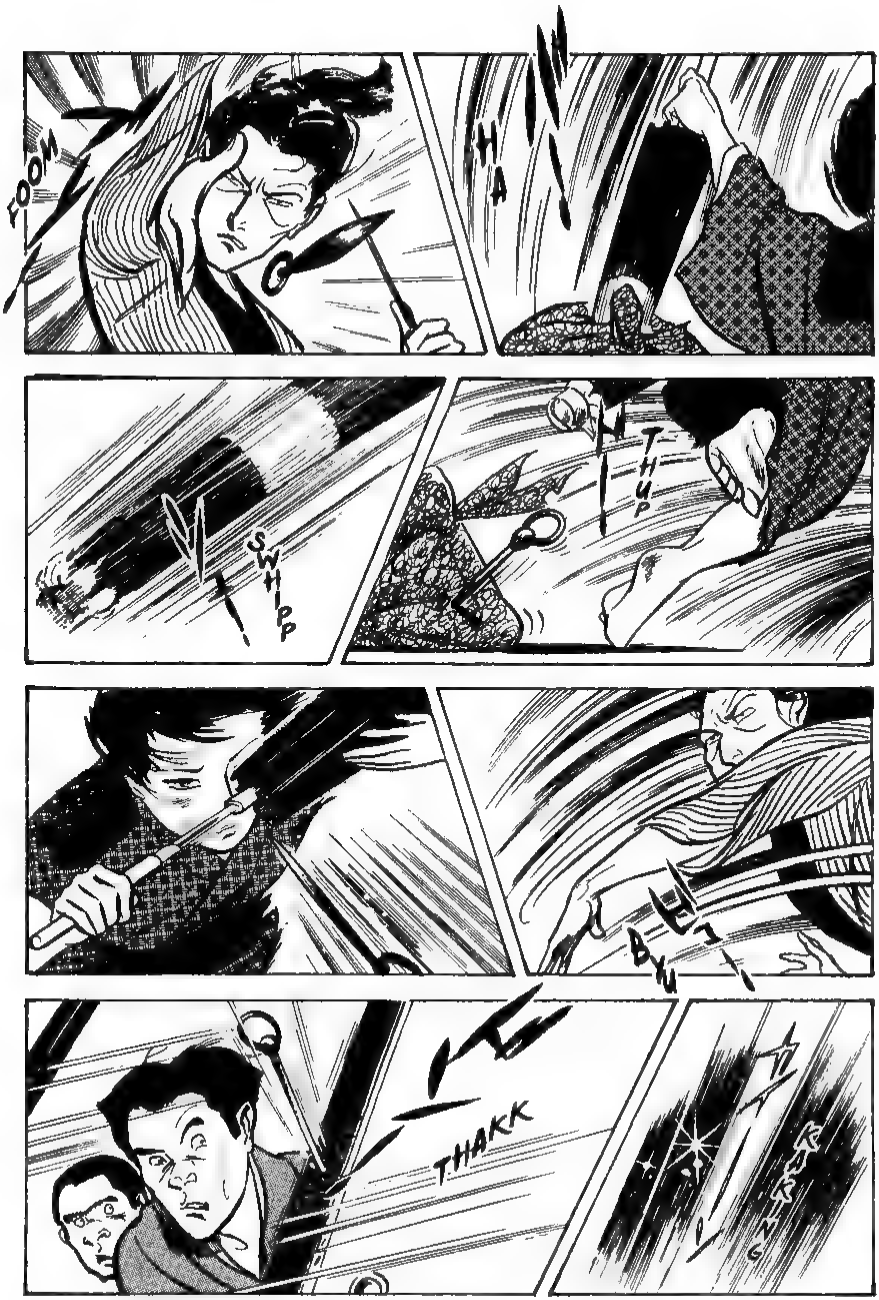

THEY SAID YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THINGS THAT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH PICKPOCKETS. THEY TOLD ME TO SEEK YOUR ADVICE
WHEN I WENT TO THE POLICE, THEY TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
HMM...
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE WHEN I WORKED AS A DETECTIVE, I USED TO BE IN CHARGE OF PICKPOCKETS. HMMM.
SHE IS A TYPE WHO LIKES TO LOOK AFTER OTHERS. I BET SHE'LL LEND YOU A HAND.
ALL RIGHT. LET ME SEND YOU TO ONE OF THEM.


TAKE THIS WITH YOU.

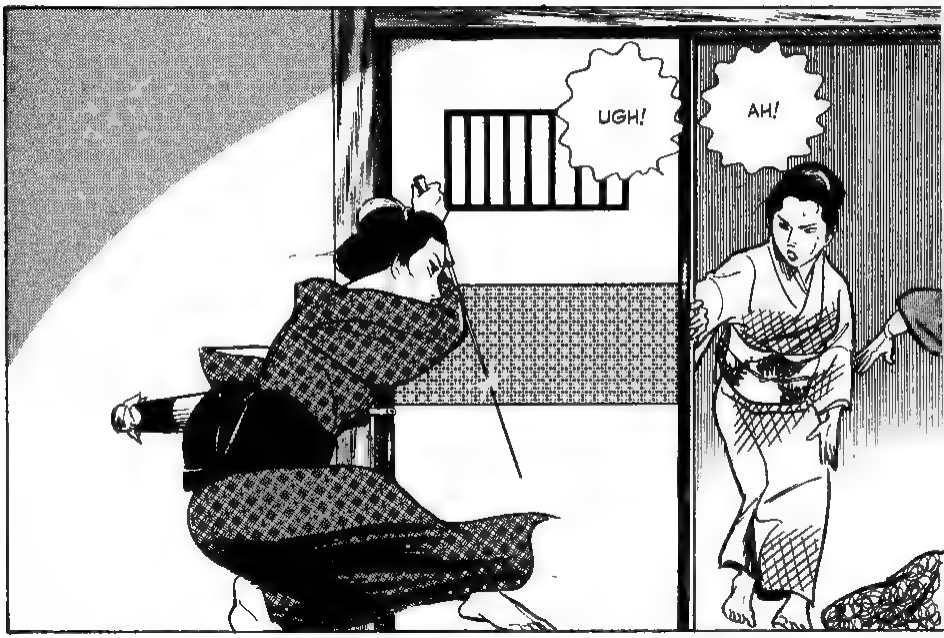
KIKU OF TAJIRE...NOW, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET TRAINING AS A PICK-POCKET.
タジレの菊殿
田地礼
TAJ RE

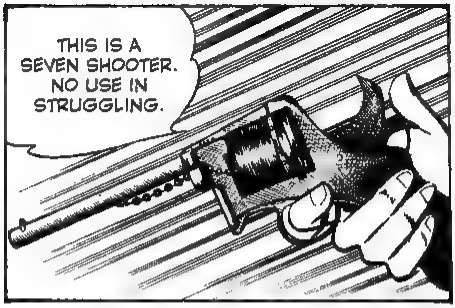
Y...YES.
SO, YOU WANNA FIND YOUR SISTER, EH?
YES. EVERYONE TELLS ME I'M HER SPITTING IMAGE.
SO, YOU SAY SHE'S A PICKPOCKET. TELL ME WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE.
IS THAT RIGHT?

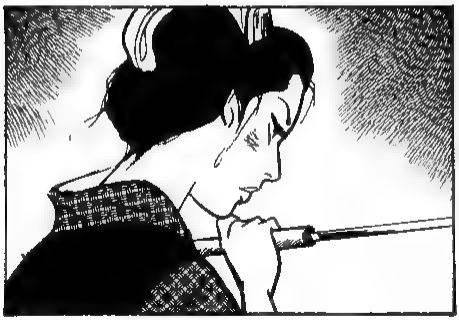
LEMME SEE YOUR FACE CLOSELY.
HOOOOH!
FWAA


FOOM
HA
SWHIPP
THUP
THAKK

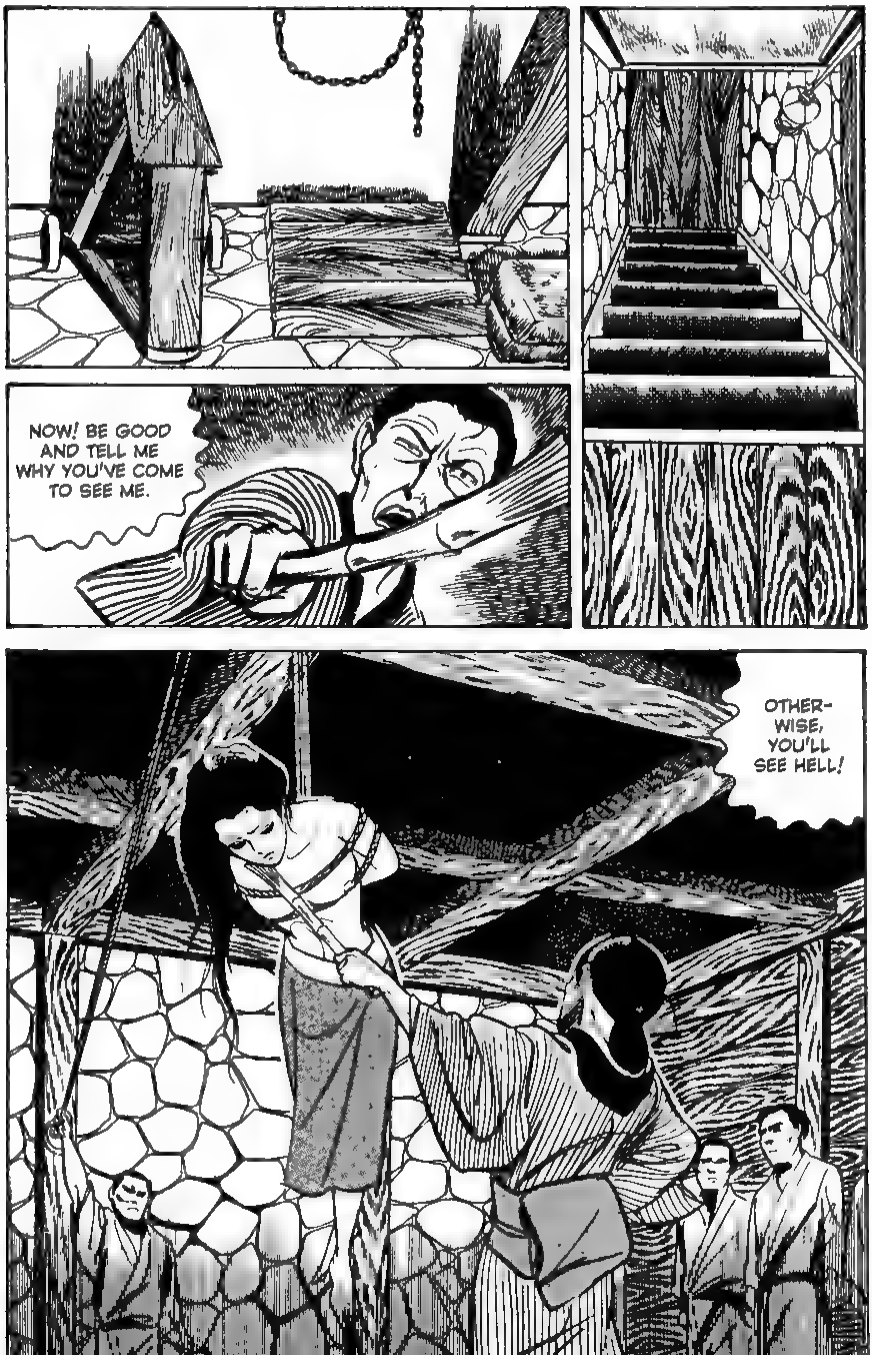
OYABUN!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? YOU CAN'T DECEIVE ME. NOT KIKU OF TAJIRE! YOUR EYES DON'T BELONG TO AN INNOCENT GIRL. THEY BELONG TO SOMEBODY WHO'S GONE THROUGH HELL.
THUM THUMP


UGH!
AH!


THIS IS A SEVEN SHOOTER. NO USE IN STRUGGLING.



YOU FOOLED OKAMATSU, INDUCING HIM TO WRITE A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION, AND TRIED TO WIN MY FAVOR. WHAT DID'YA HAVE IN MIND?
A TRAINED BODY AND A HIDDEN WEAPON!


NOW! BE GOOD AND TELL ME WHY YOU'VE COME TO SEE ME.
OTHER-WISE, YOU'LL SEE HELL!

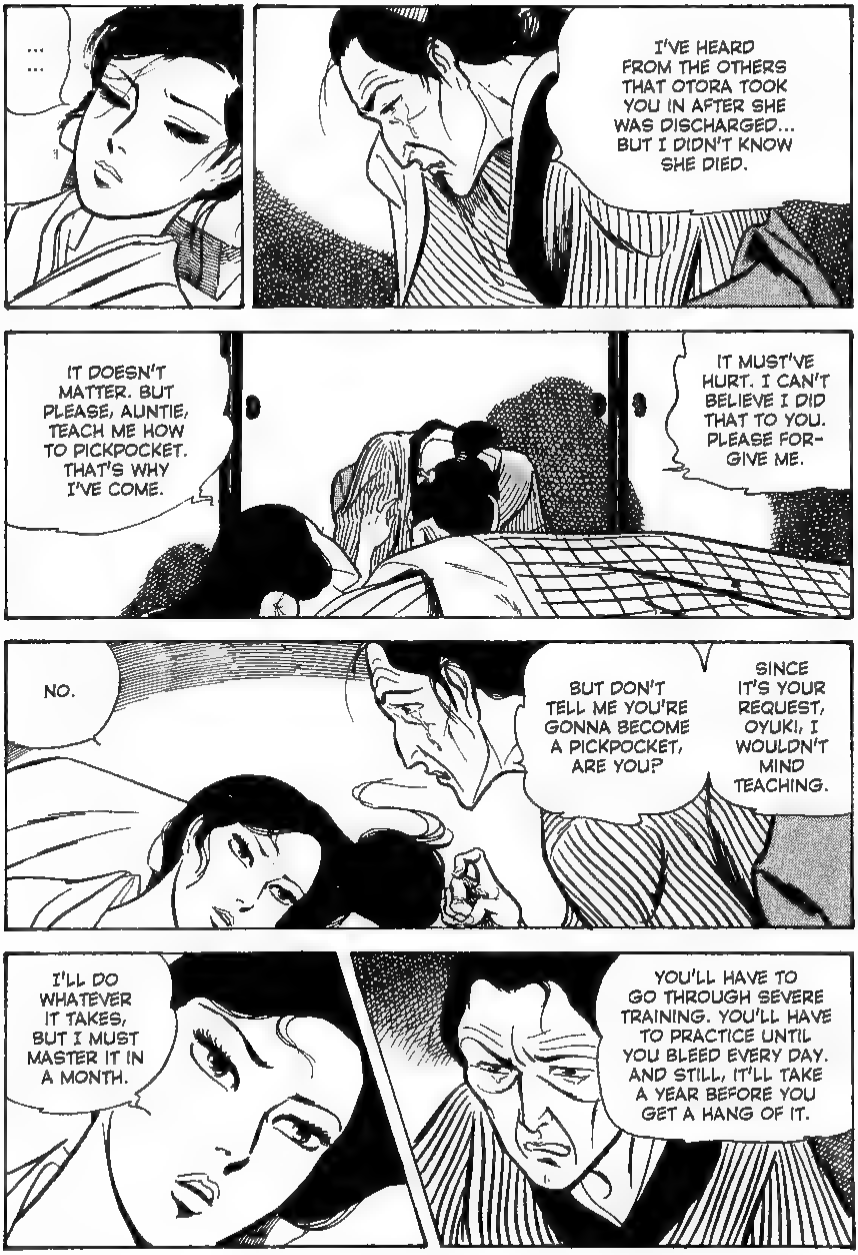
I'LL MAKE YOU SCREAM IT!
...
...
WHACK
CRACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
HUFF
HUFF

I, KIKU OF TAJIRE, CONTROL THE PICK-POCKETS OF TOKYO. WHAT DID'YA HAVE IN MIND WHEN YOU CAME TO ME? SAY IT! SCREAM IT!
CRACK
WHAP
OOH
SAY IT!
A PRETTY FACE WITH A STUBBORN WILL. LOOKS LIKE SHE'S AN UNUSUALLY TOUGH NUT TO CRACK.
OOH!
BAM
WHAP
KRAUK
KRAUK
SMACK

SPLASH
TH-TH!S FLOWER-LIKE MARK... I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE... SOME-WHERE...
?!

AHH!
SH-SHE LOOKS ALIKE...
SH-SHE'S A SPITTING IMAGE OF SAYO. TH--THIS...THIS GIRL...

S-SO, THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED...AS I THOUGHT, YOU ARE... YUKI...
Y-YOU'VE GROWN UP. Y-YOU MUST'VE GONE THROUGH SOME-- MMM....
YOU'RE THAT BABY...
OTORA OF MIKAZUKI PASSED AWAY LAST WINTER. SHE'S THE ONE WHO RAISED ME.


...
...
I'VE HEARD FROM THE OTHERS THAT OTORA TOOK YOU IN AFTER SHE WAS DISCHARGED... BUT I DIDN'T KNOW SHE DIED.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. BUT PLEASE, AUNTIE, TEACH ME HOW TO PICKPOCKET. THAT'S WHY I'VE COME.
IT MUST'VE HURT. I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID THAT TO YOU. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
NO.
BUT DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GONNA BECOME A PICKPOCKET, ARE YOU?
SINCE IT'S YOUR REQUEST, OYUKI, I WOULDN'T MIND TEACHING.
I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES, BUT I MUST MASTER IT IN A MONTH.
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH SEVERE TRAINING. YOU'LL HAVE TO PRACTICE UNTIL YOU BLEED EVERY DAY. AND STILL, IT'LL TAKE A YEAR BEFORE YOU GET A HANG OF IT.

YES.
IS THIS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR REVENGE?
YES.
YOU'RE SAYING YOU MUST MASTER THE ART OF PICKPOCKET FOR IT. IS THAT IT?

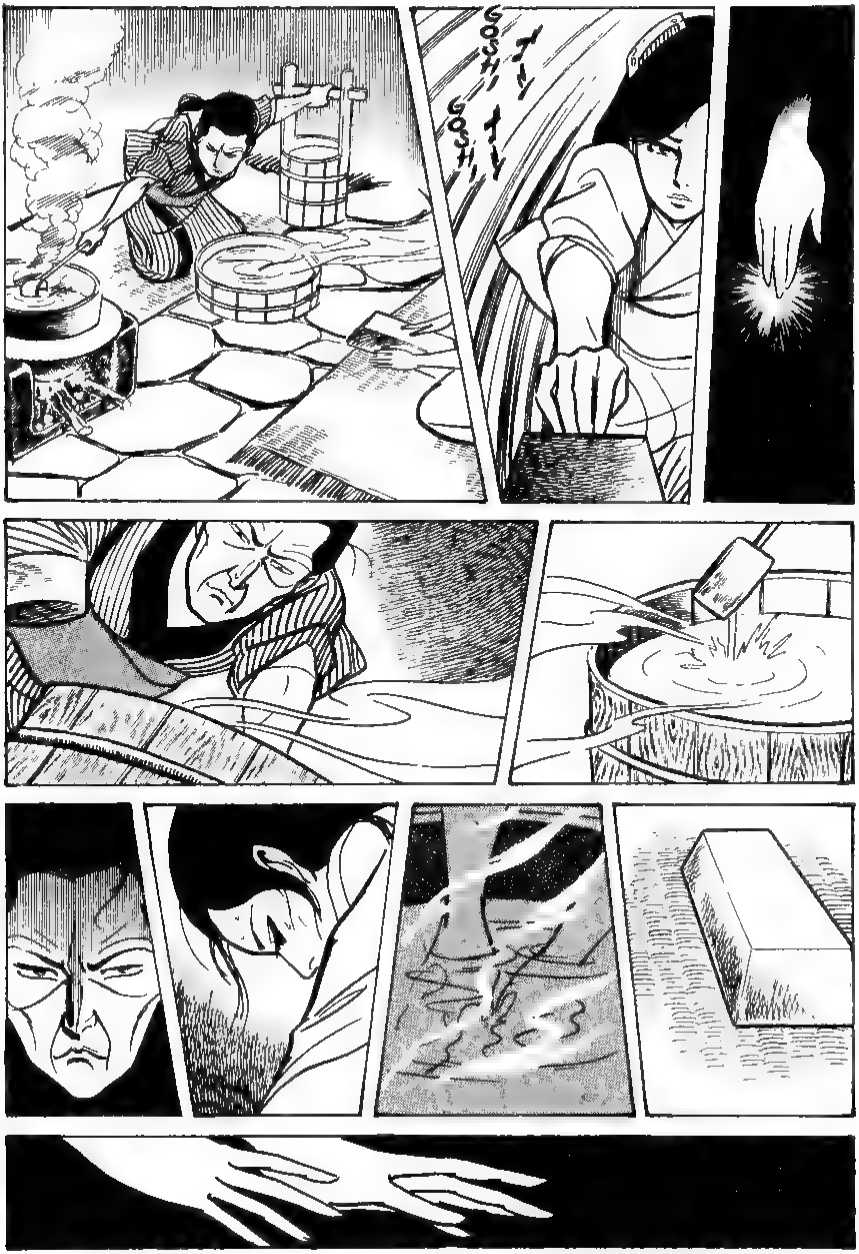
外題之五
鹿鳴館殺人八景(ろくめいかんさつじんはっけい)
EPISODE 5
ROKUMEIKAN
MURDER
PANORAMA,
PART 2

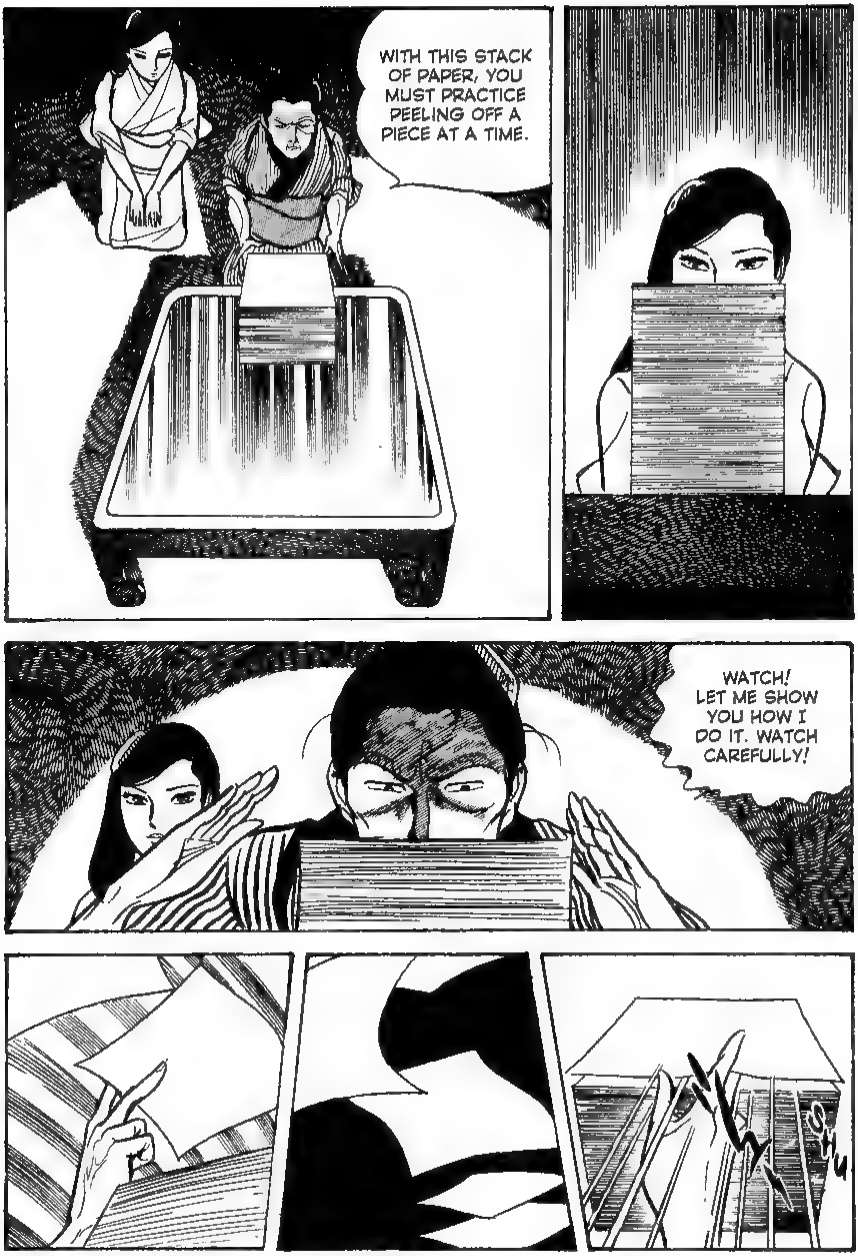
BUBB
HH
BUBB
AW!

...
...
IT'S JUST ABOUT RIGHT.
YES!
GOT THAT?
YOU MUST KEEP YOUR HAND DIPPED IN IT FOR THE COUNT OF TEN. IF YOU DO IT LONGER THAN THAT, YOU'LL GET BURNT.
SHARPEN YOUR FINGERS' SENSITIVITY. IT'S A DAILY ROUTINE PERFORMED BY EVERY PICKPOCKET.
YOU TRAIN YOUR FINGERS WITH HEAT, THE INTENSITY OF WHICH VERGES ON BURNING YOU.

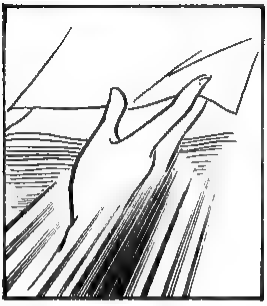
YES.
LISTEN, EVEN IF IT'S HOT, YOU GOTTA BEAR IT.
NOW TRY IT!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PICKPOCKET WITH OILY FINGERS. FINGERS ARE SMOOTH RIGHT AFTER THEY BATHE IN HOT WATER. THEY'LL BE ABLE TO FEEL EVERYTHING, KEEN AND SHARP
AH!
ZABA

NINE
EIGHT
BOOM
TEN
NO JOG
YOU'RE TO REPEAT IT OVER AND OVER.
AFTER THAT, YOU MUST DIP 'EM IN HOT WATER AGAIN.
NEXT, USE THIS POLISHING STONE AND THOROUGHLY POLISH THE TIPS OF YOUR FINGERS.

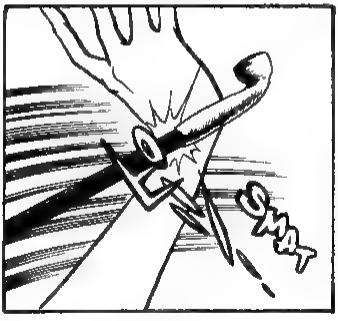

GOSHI
GOSHI
ブーン


WITH THIS STACK OF PAPER, YOU MUST PRACTICE PEELING OFF A PIECE AT A TIME.
WATCH! LET ME SHOW YOU HOW I DO IT. WATCH CAREFULLY!

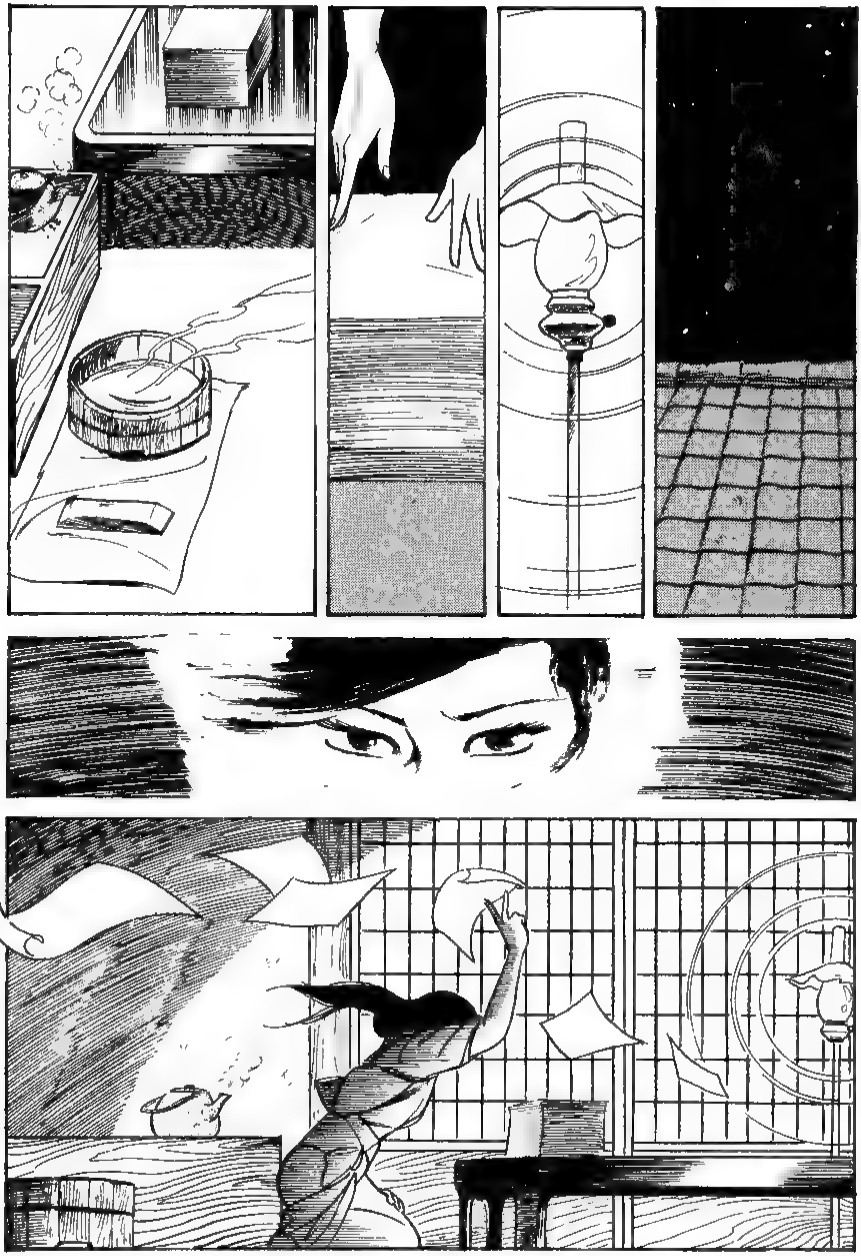
GSHAK

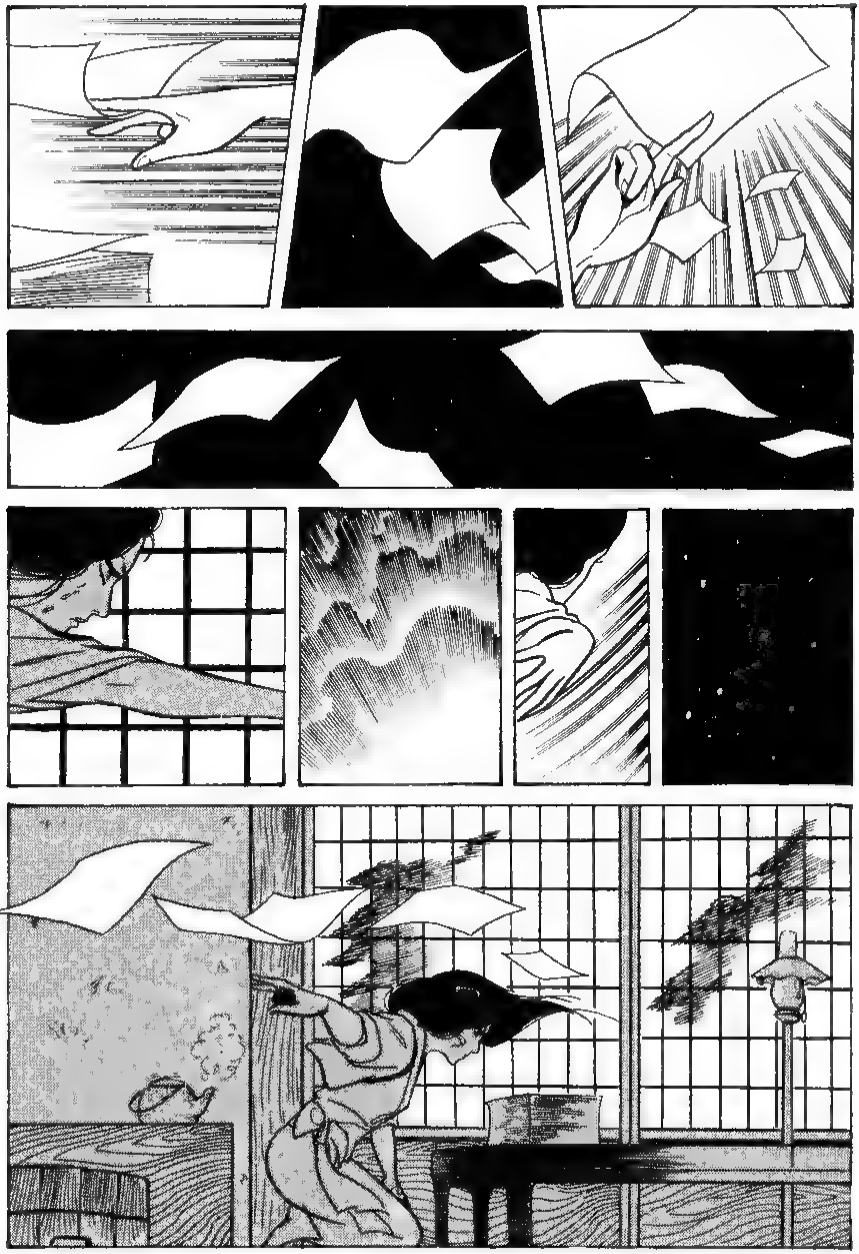


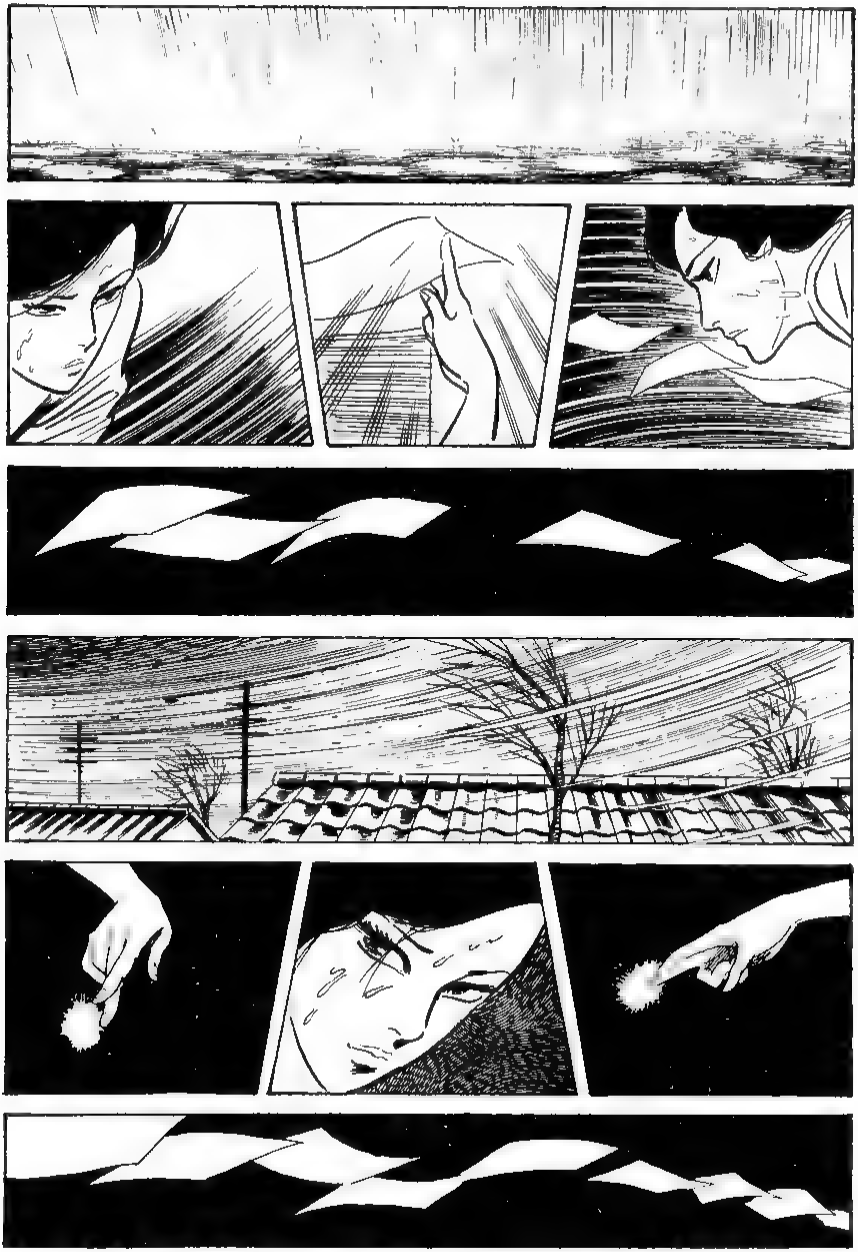
UH!!

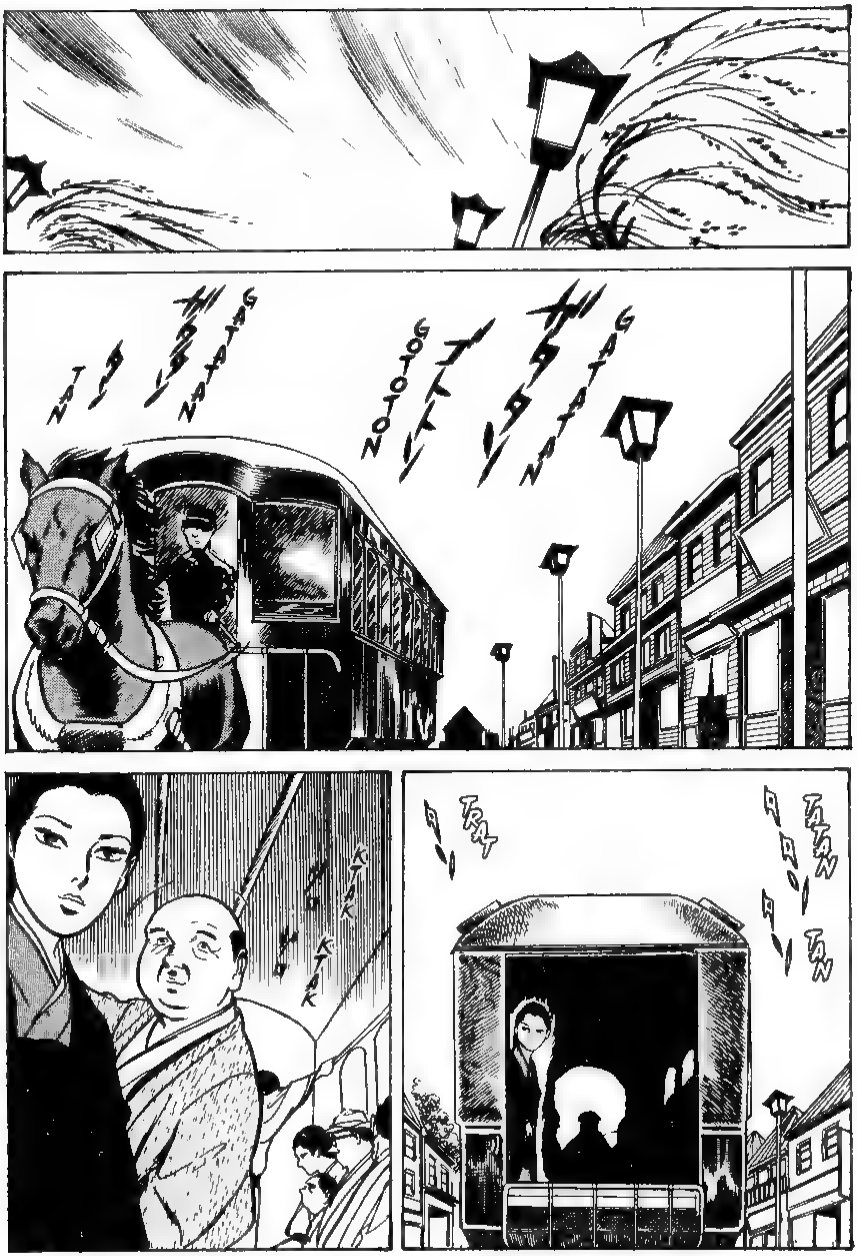

SMAT

IT'S NO GOOD! YOUR ARM'S TOO TENSE!
SMACK
ONCE MORE!
DON'T GET TOO IMPATIENT! CALM YOUR MIND.








KTAK
KTAK

"THE FINGER TIPS MUST MOVE AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN THE MIND'S EYE IS LOOKING ELSEWHERE."
"EVEN A BLOCKHEADED MORON WILL NOTICE IF SOMEONE ELSE'S HAND PULLS OUT HIS WALLET. EVERYONE HAS THIS THING CALLED THE MIND'S EYE. DISTRACTING THAT EXTRA SENSE IS WHAT SKILLED PICKPOCKETS DO."
AH!
SAKUN
AW! OUCH!

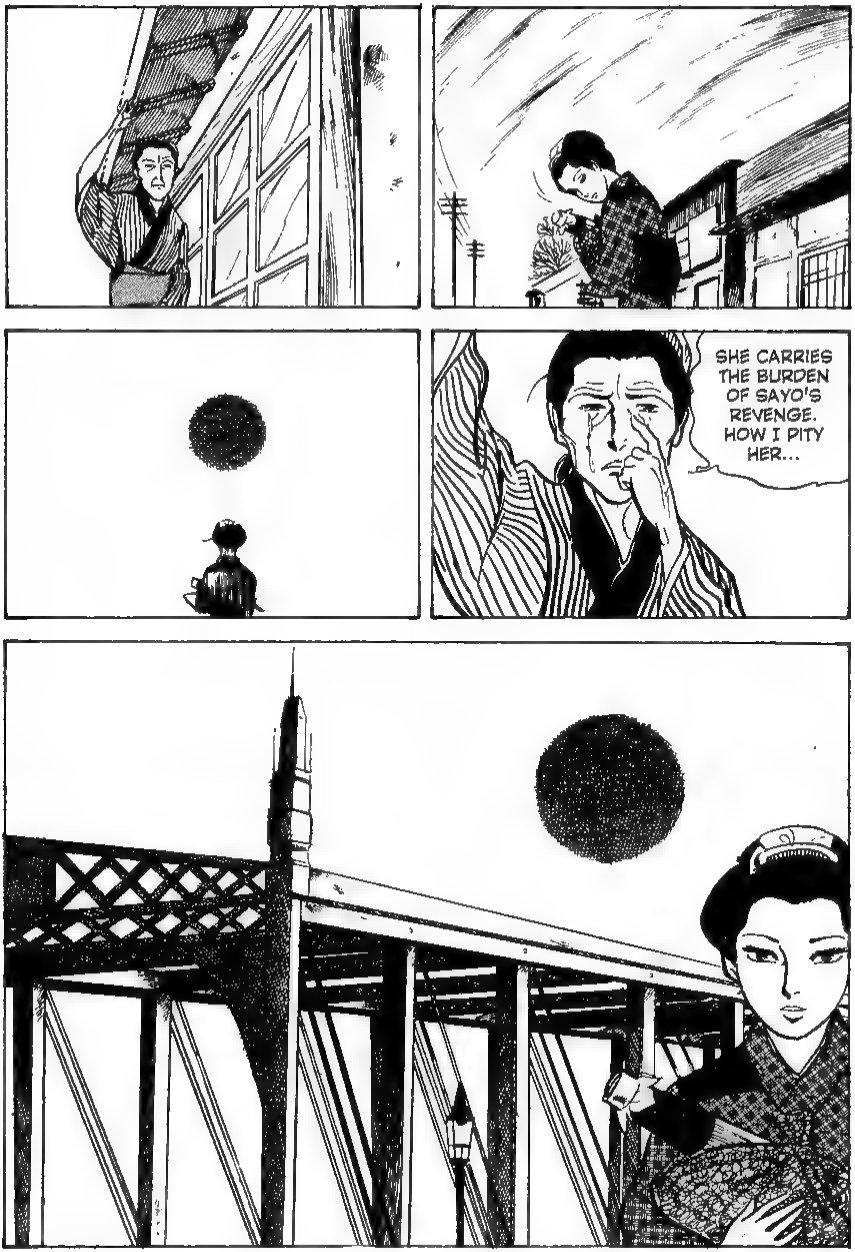
OH, I'M FINE. DON'T WORRY.
I-I'M SO SORRY. ARE YOU OKAY?
I REALLY AM VERY SORRY.
IT WAS THE CARRIAGE THAT JERKED. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT. PLEASE DO NOT WORRY.

ANIMAL CIRCUS
チャリネ大曲馬団
曲馬数頭大
GUNCHACHA
GUNCHACHA
GUNCHACHA

OH! MY! GOOD-NESS!
GROWL
WISH
IT'S NOT BAD TO DISTRACT THE MIND'S EYE WITH HELP OF A PROP. WE CALL IT DRAW-ING A CURTAIN.
NOT A PROB-LEM.
OH, EXCUSE ME!

AUNTIE, I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.
WITH YOUR SKILL, YOU'LL BE FINE. YOU'VE WORKED HARD TO MASTER IT.
TAIRE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'LL DO WITH YOUR NEW SKILLS, BUT TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF.

AND TAKE THIS WITH YOU. IT MAY COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY.
AUNTIE...
I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE MY REAL DAUGHTER.
YOU'RE A CHILD OF HELL...TH-THAT MAKES ME... P-PITY YOU... EVEN MORE.
OYUKI...DON'T DIE. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU'VE GOTTA...COME BACK HERE ALIVE.

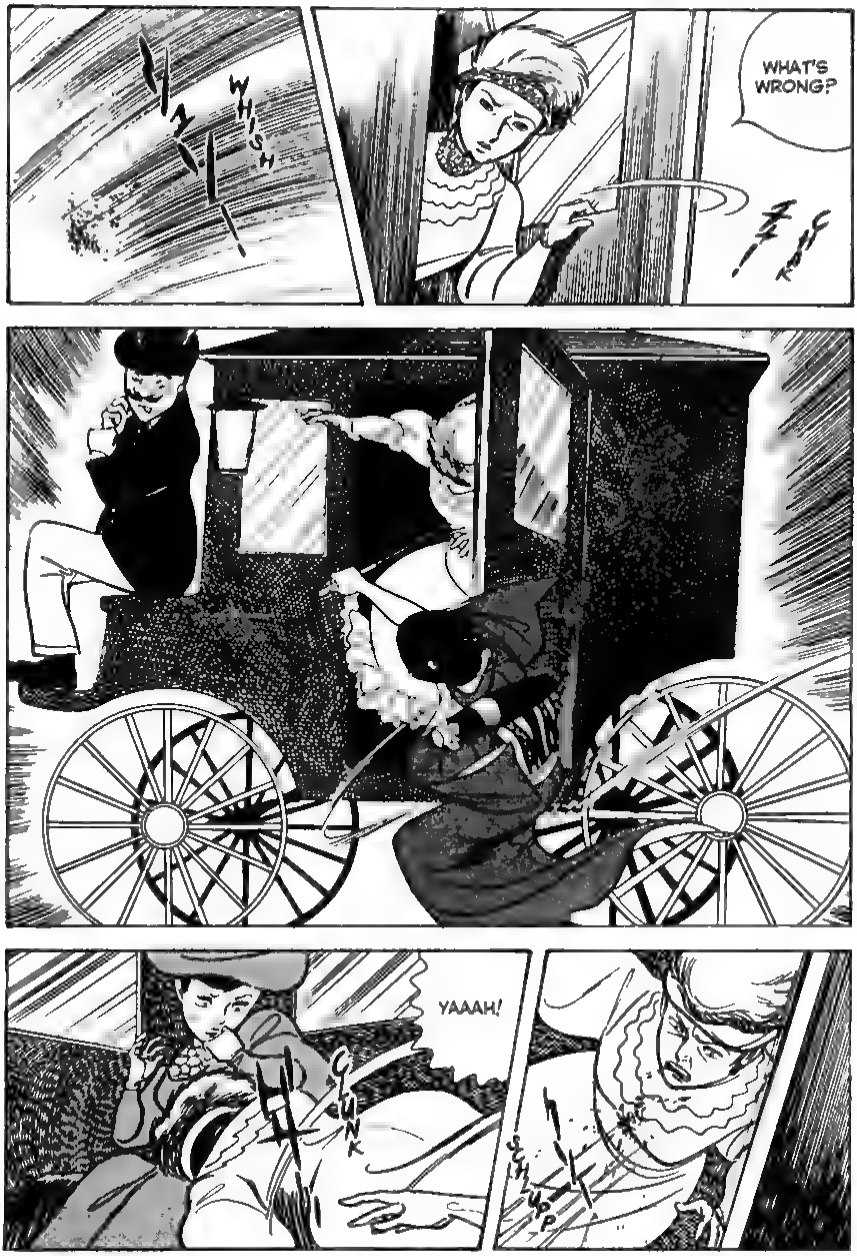

SHE CARRIES THE BURDEN OF SAYO'S REVENGE. HOW I PITY HER...

外題之五

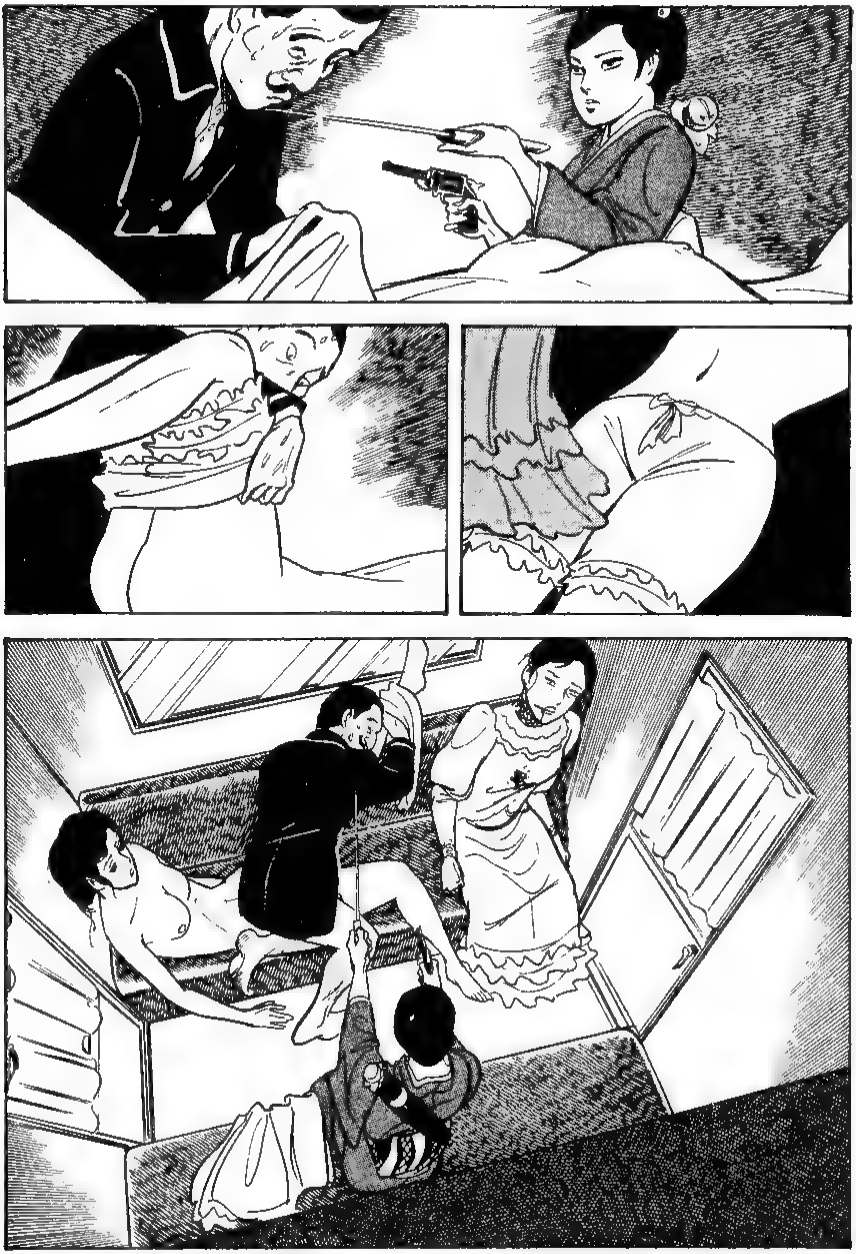
鹿鳴館殺人八景 三

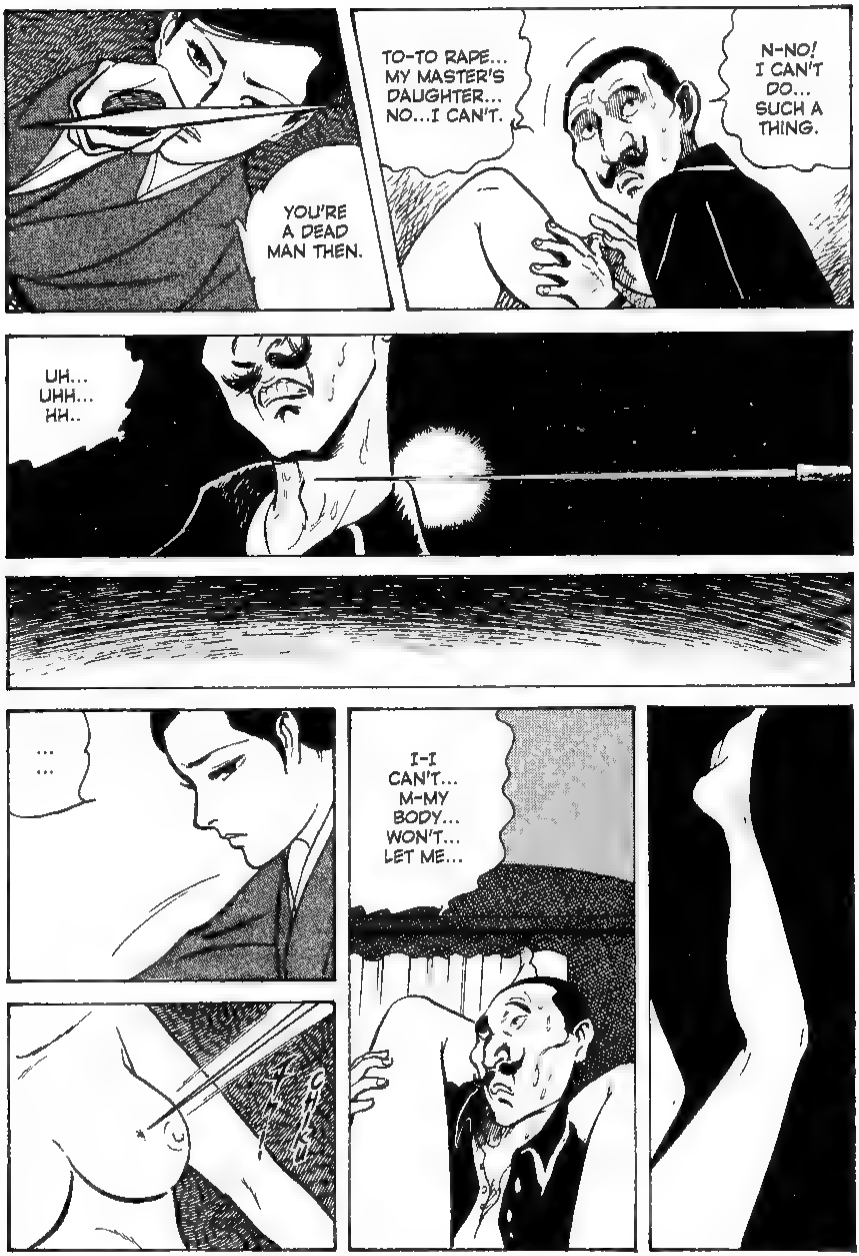
EPISODE 5
ROKUMEIKAN
MURDER
PANORAMA,
PART 3

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

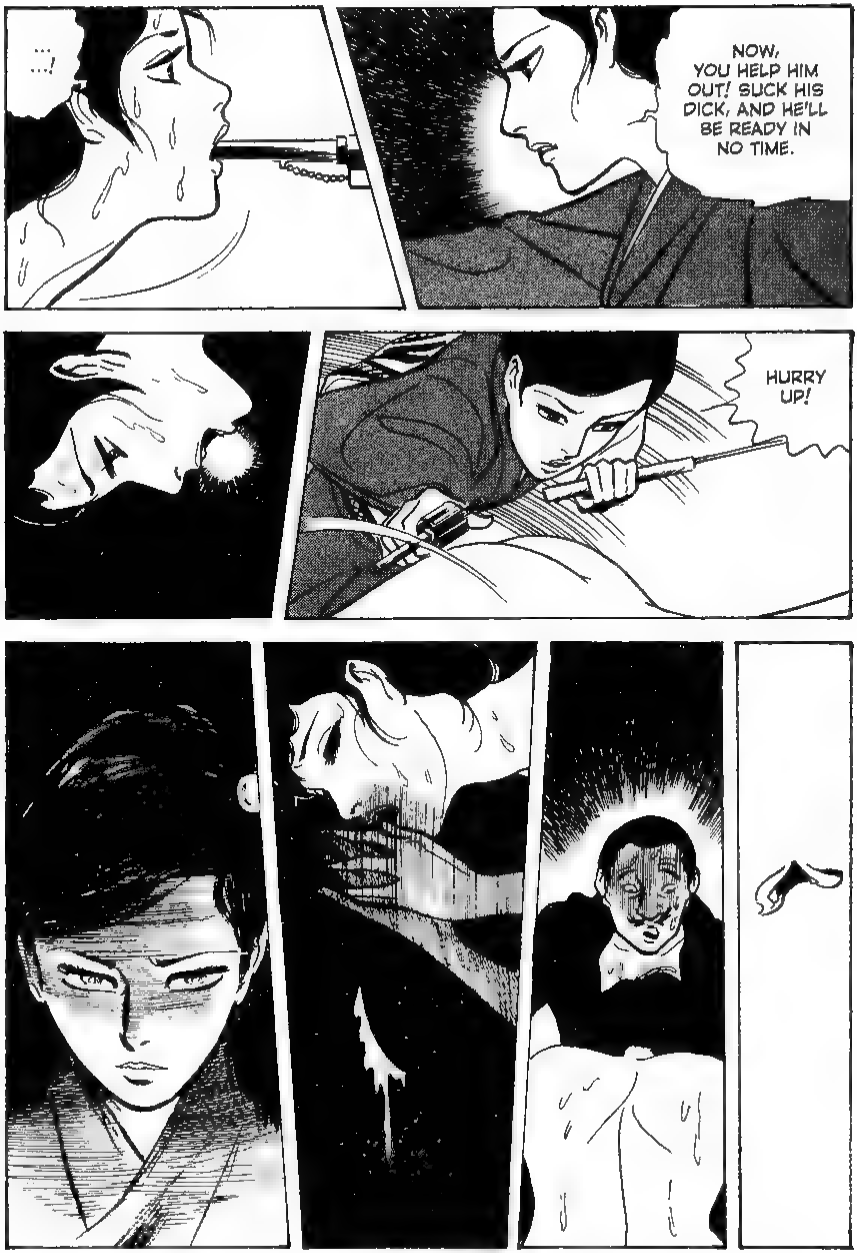

WHISH
WHAT'S WRONG?
YAAAH!
CHUNK
SCHLUP

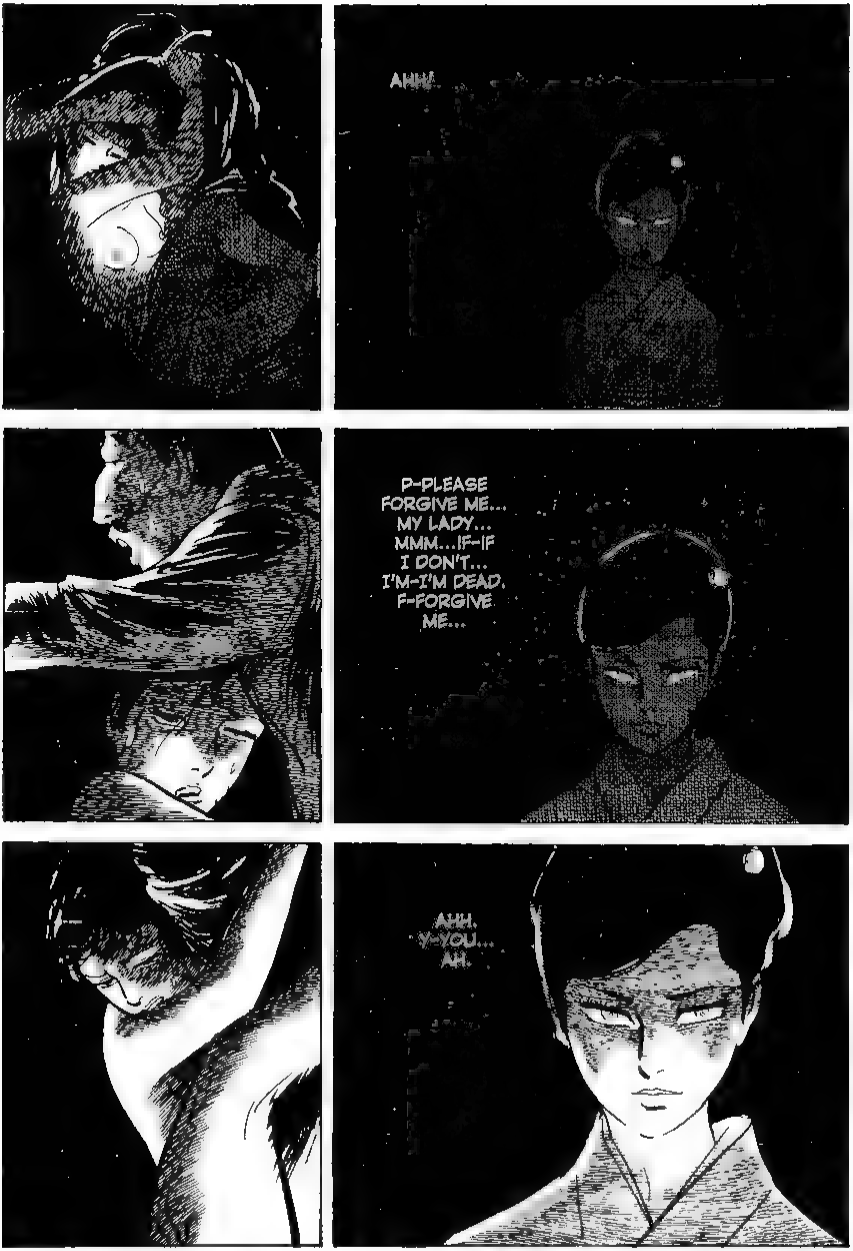
OOOH...
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, DO AS I SAY.




YOU'RE A DEAD MAN THEN.
TO-TO RAPE... MY MASTER'S DAUGHTER... NO...I CAN'T.
N-NO! I CAN'T DO... SUCH A THING.
UH... UHH... HH..
... ...
I-I CAN'T... M-MY BODY... WON'T... LET ME...
CHIKU

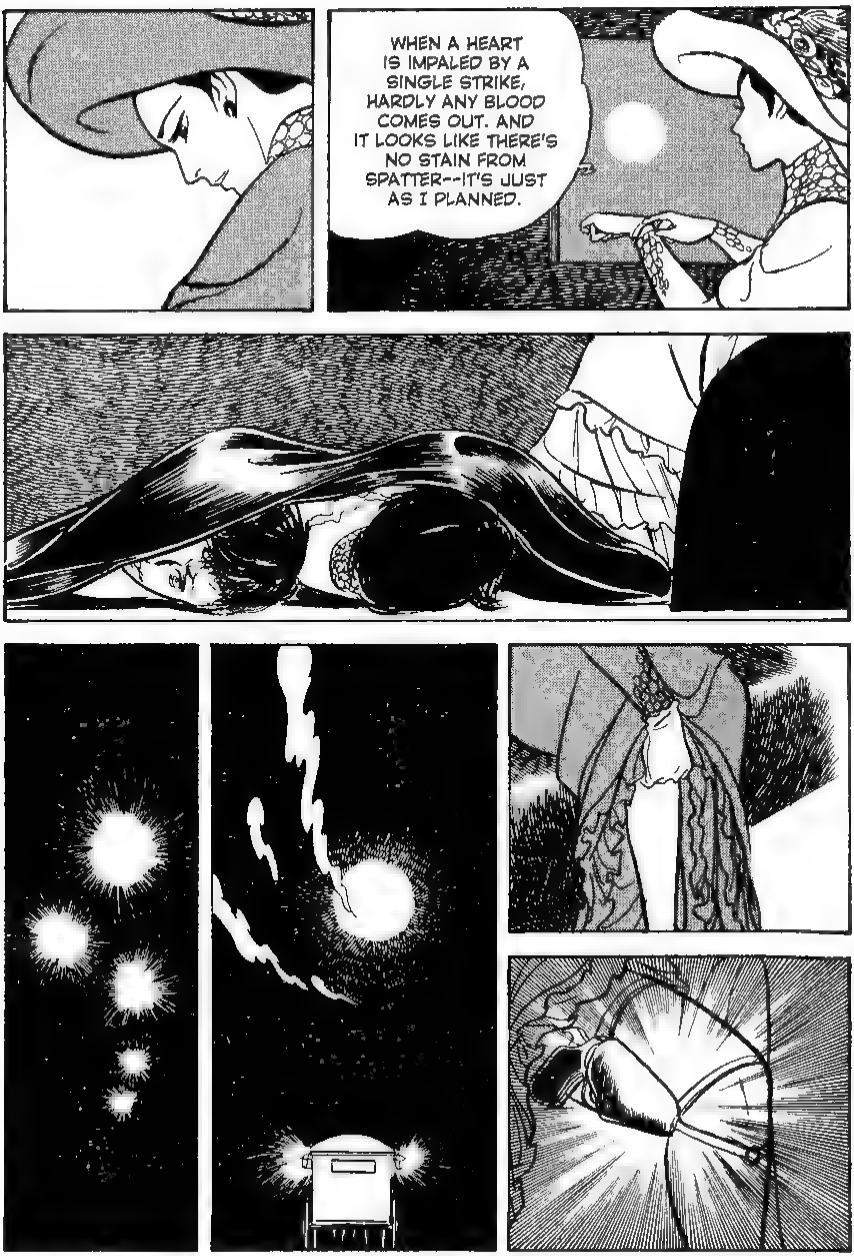
WH-WHA-AHH!
HUH!
I KNOW YOU DO THIS AT ROKUMEIKAN EVERY NIGHT. YOU'VE HAD MORE THAN YOUR SHARE OF FOOLING AROUND WITH MAN AFTER MAN.
BE QUIET. YOU'RE NOT EVEN A VIRGIN. NO REASON TO FREAK OUT OVER A MAN.
STOP WHINING. ALL YOU MUST DO IS WHAT YOU DO EVERYDAY.
UHH... H-HELP!
YOUR FACE LOOKS LIKE THAT OF A SWEET LITTLE GIRL, BUT YOUR DARKENED PUSSY PROVES OTHERWISE.

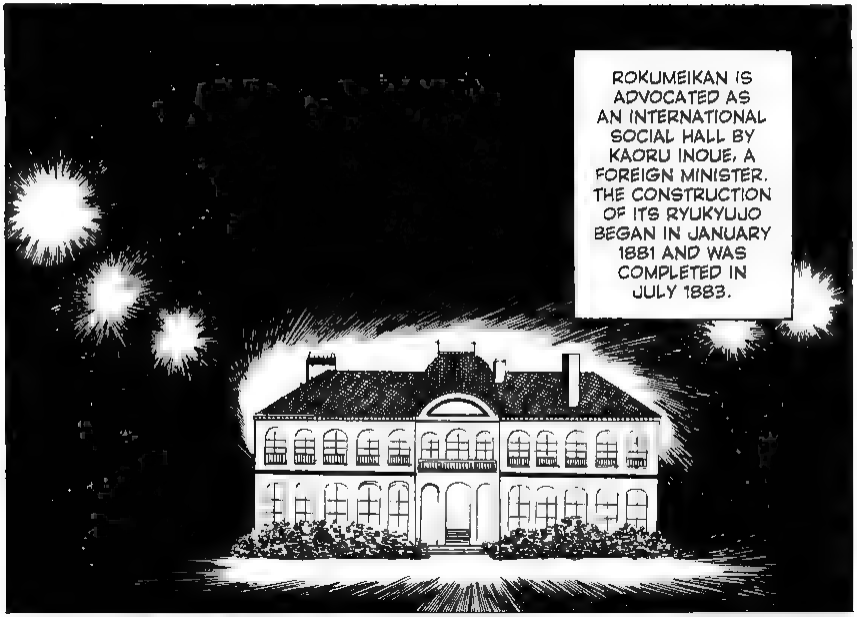

...!
NOW, YOU HELP HIM OUT! SUCK HIS DICK, AND HE'LL BE READY IN NO TIME.
HURRY UP!

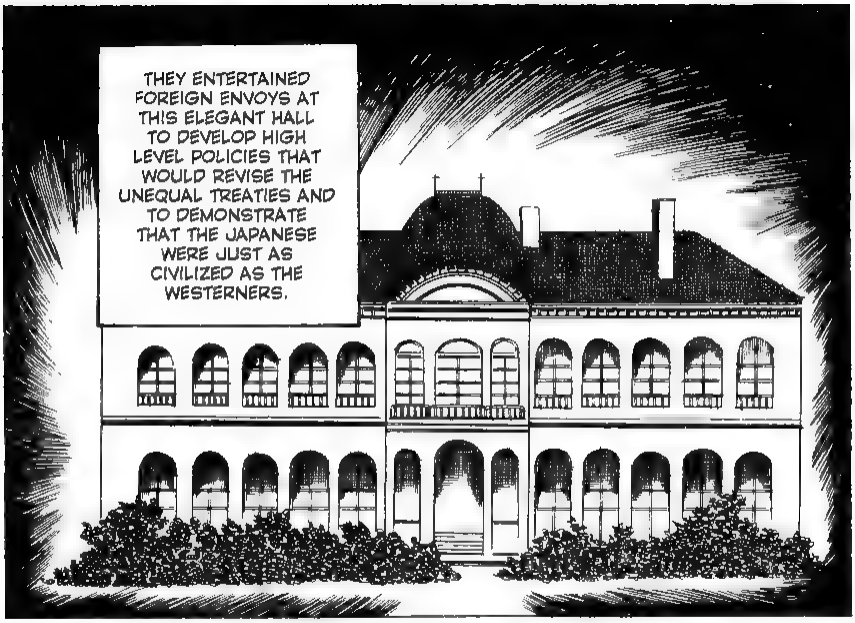

AHH.
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME... MY LADY... MMM...IF-IF I DON'T... I'M-I'M DEAD. F-FORGIVE ME...
AHH. Y-YOU... AH.

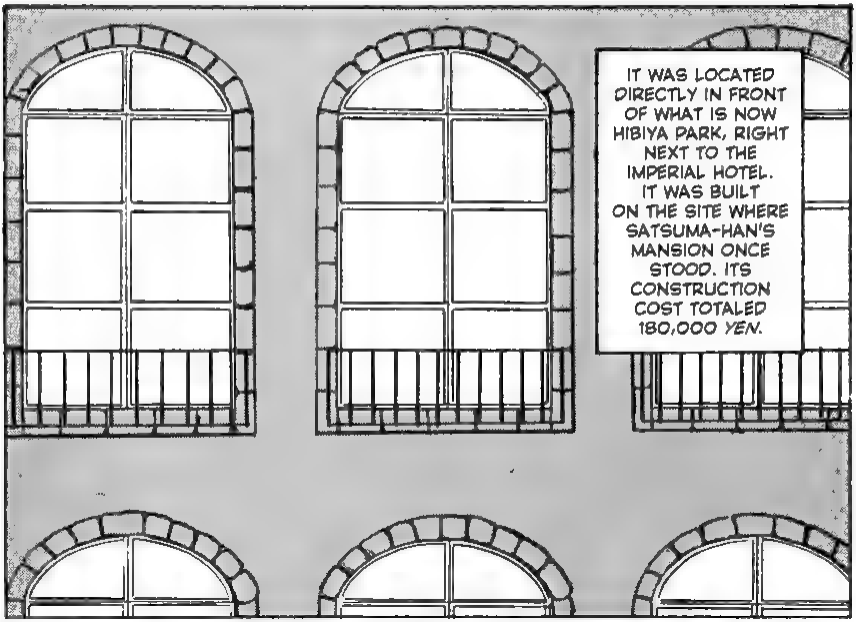
SHU
UH...
SHUKK
AIEE
I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE OF THE NEW TESTING METHOD THE POLICE USE NOWADAYS. THEY'VE INVITED SPECIALISTS FROM EUROPE FOR IT.
HM...NOW YOU AND I ARE ACCOMPLICES. THE PROOF IS INSIDE HER BODY.

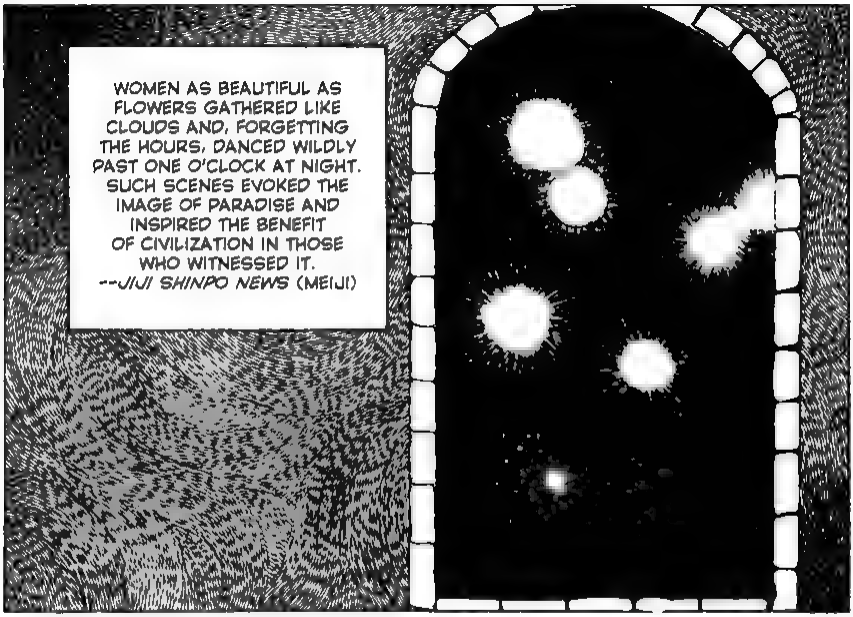
UH...
UHH...
YOU GOT THAT? YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR LIFE, RIGHT?
NOW, YOU WILL HAVE TO FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTION.
I HEAR THEY CAN INFER THE OFFENDER BY HIS SPERM. HEH HEH.
NOW! TAKE ME TO THE ROKUMEIKAN! LIKE THE WAY YOU ALWAYS DO
CLIP CLOP CLIP CLOP
TWING
GRRRR

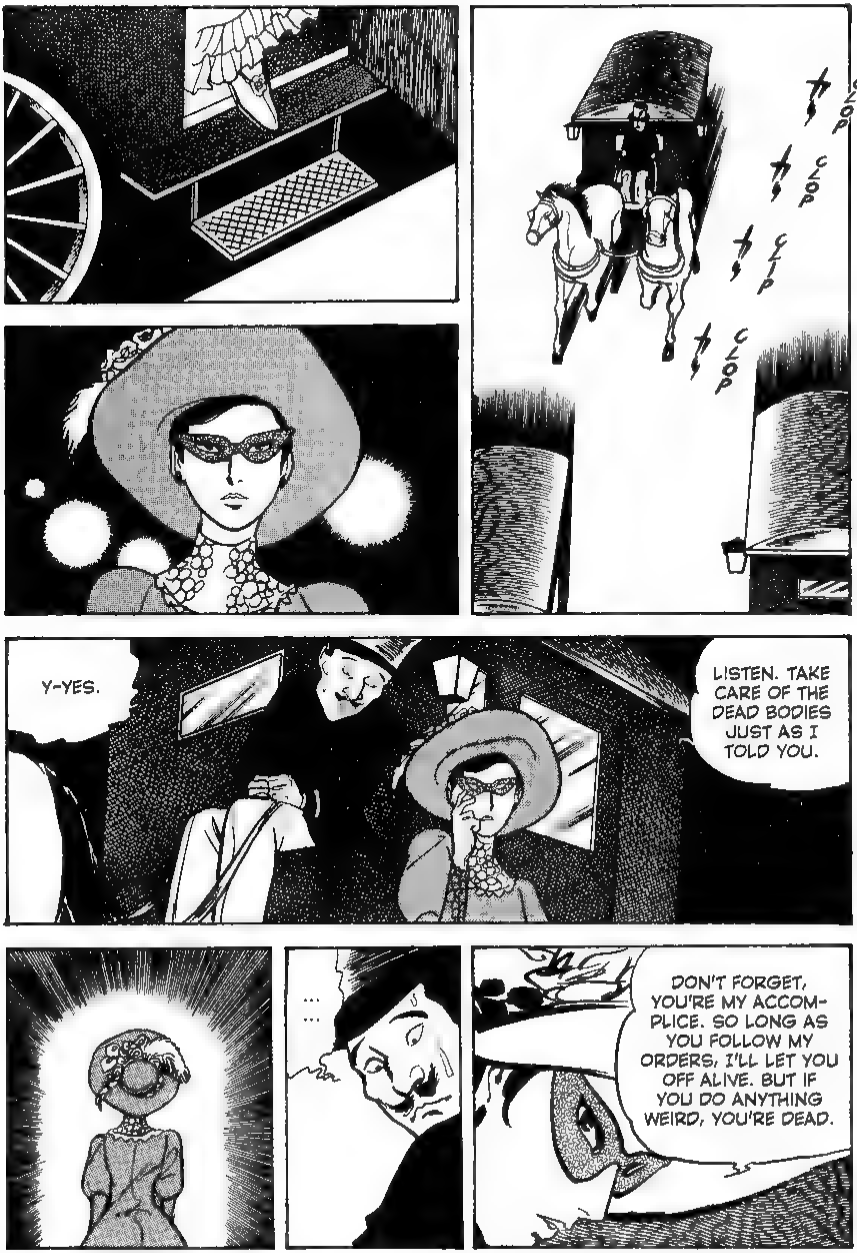

WHEN A HEART IS IMPALED BY A SINGLE STRIKE, HARDLY ANY BLOOD COMES OUT. AND IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO STAIN FROM SPATTER--IT'S JUST AS I PLANNED.


ROKUMEIKAN IS ADVOCATED AS AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL HALL BY KAORU INOUE, A FOREIGN MINISTER. THE CONSTRUCTION OF ITS RYUKYUJO BEGAN IN JANUARY 1881 AND WAS COMPLETED IN JULY 1883.

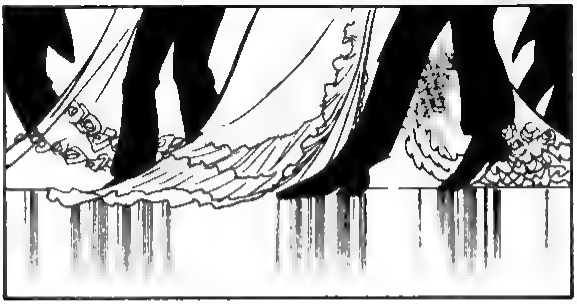

THEY ENTERTAINED FOREIGN ENVOYS AT THIS ELEGANT HALL TO DEVELOP HIGH LEVEL POLICIES THAT WOULD REVISE THE UNEQUAL TREATIES AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE JAPANESE WERE JUST AS CIVILIZED AS THE WESTERNERS.

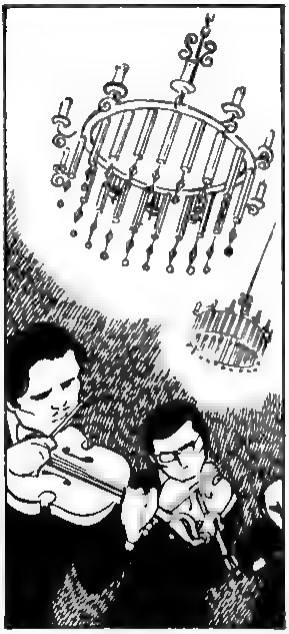

IT WAS LOCATED DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF WHAT IS NOW HIBIYA PARK, RIGHT NEXT TO THE IMPERIAL HOTEL. IT WAS BUILT ON THE SITE WHERE SATSUMA-HAN'S MANSION ONCE STOOD. ITS CONSTRUCTION COST TOTALED 180,000 *YEN*.


WOMEN AS BEAUTIFUL AS FLOWERS GATHERED LIKE CLOUDS AND, FORGETTING THE HOURS, DANCED WILDLY PAST ONE O'CLOCK AT NIGHT. SUCH SCENES EVOKED THE IMAGE OF PARADISE AND INSPIRED THE BENEFIT OF CIVILIZATION IN THOSE WHO WITNESSED IT.
--*JIJI SHINPO NEWS* (MEIJI)


CLOP
CLOP
CLIP
CLOP
Y-YES.
LISTEN. TAKE CARE OF THE DEAD BODIES JUST AS I TOLD YOU.
...
...
DON'T FORGET, YOU'RE MY ACCOMPLICE. SO LONG AS YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS, I'LL LET YOU OFF ALIVE. BUT IF YOU DO ANYTHING WEIRD, YOU'RE DEAD.

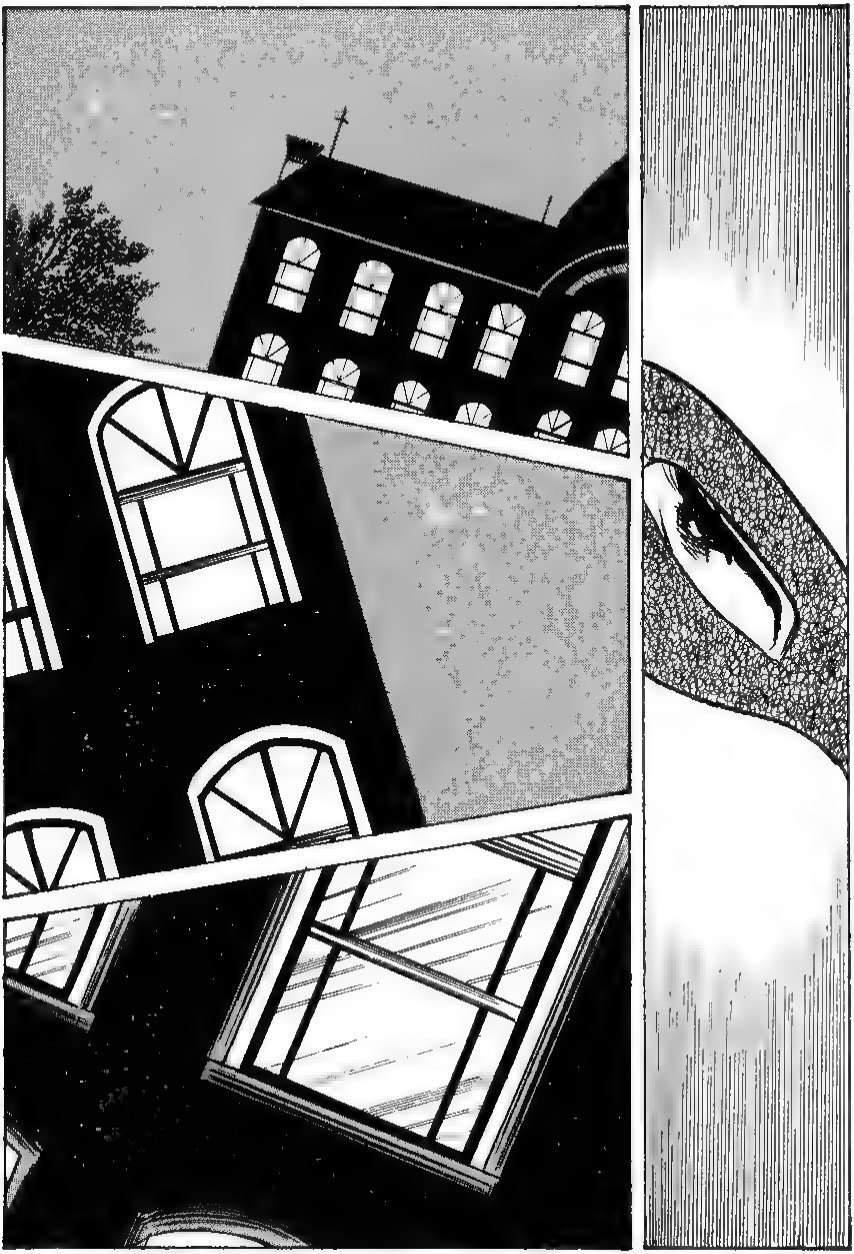
MASKED CHARITY BALL
慈善仮装大舞踏会



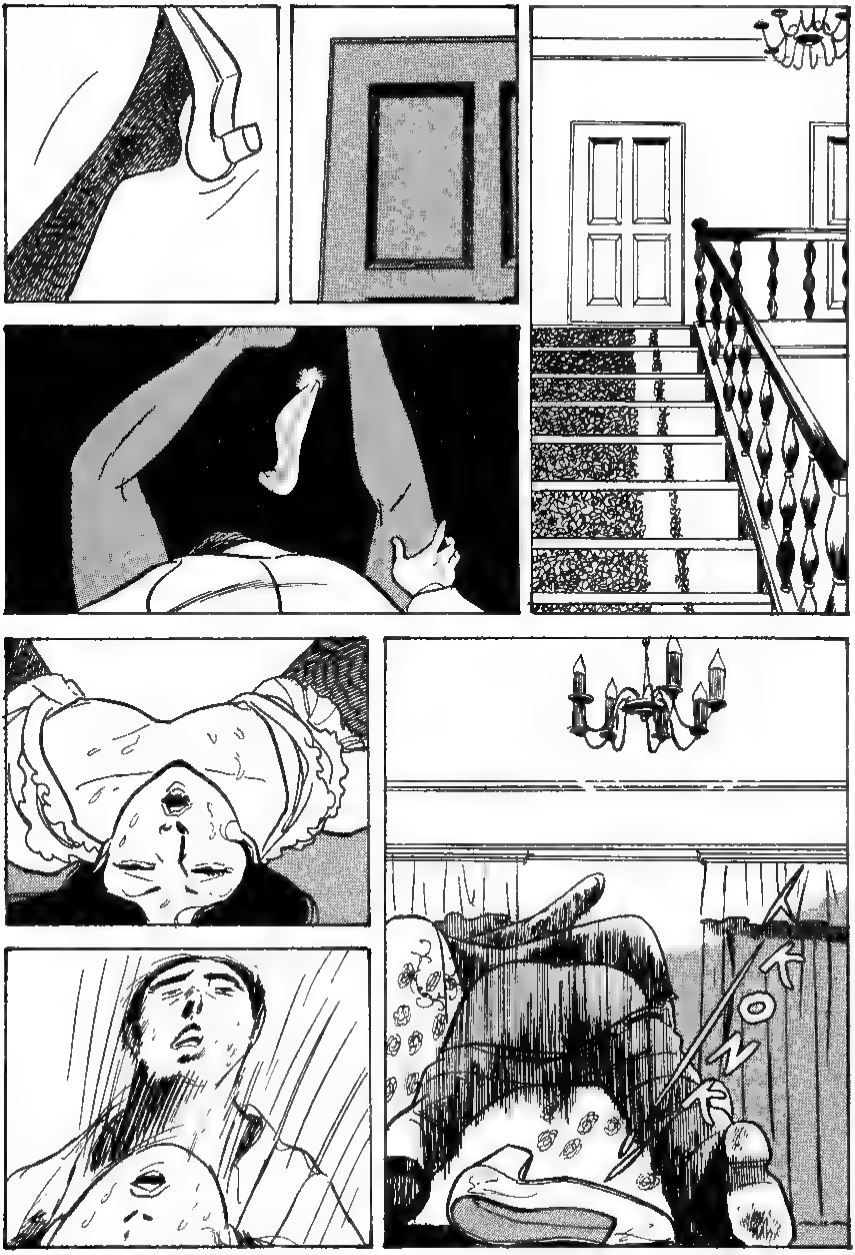


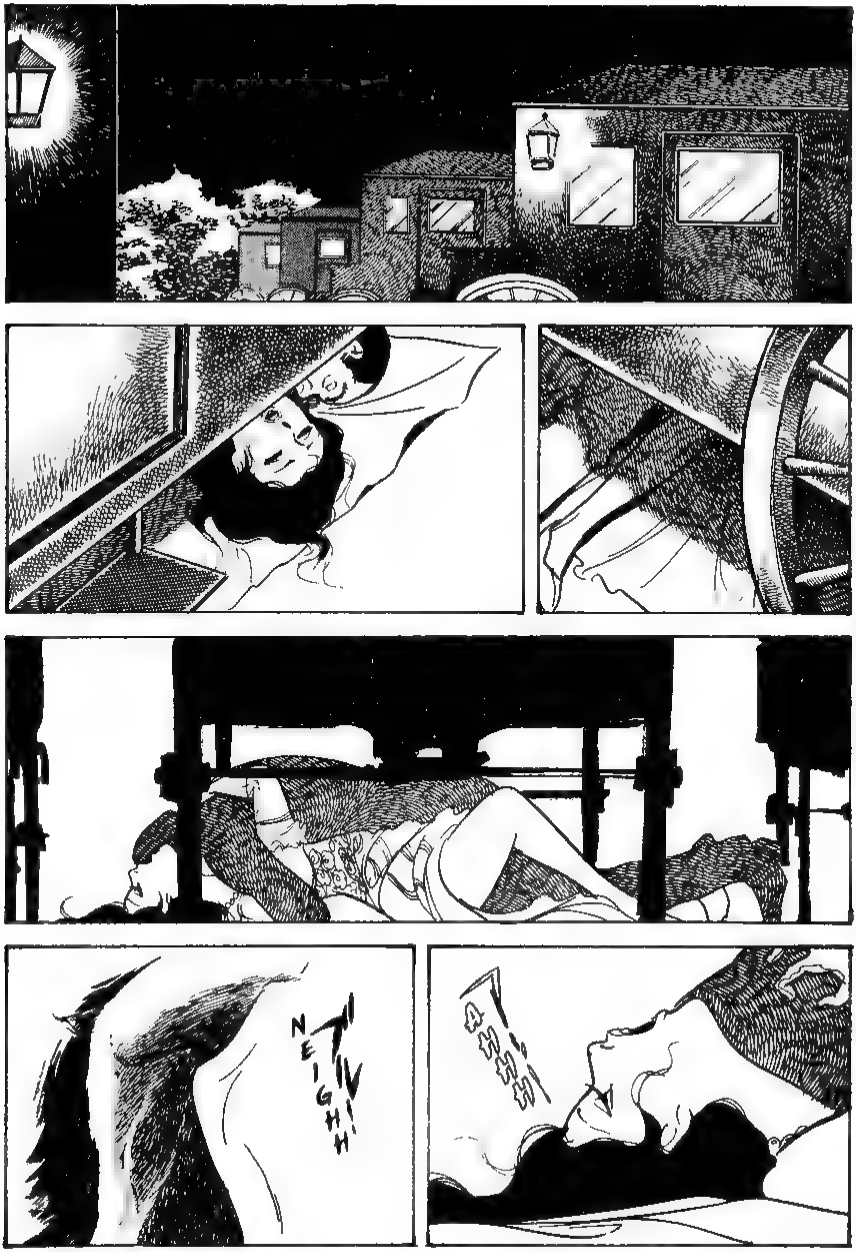
AH...
NO WORRIES. IT'S JUST THAT IT'S EXCEPTIONALLY CROWDED TONIGHT.
EXCUSE ME, SIR. TEE HEE HEE.

AHA HA. HOW FUN THIS IS!
TEE HEE HEE...



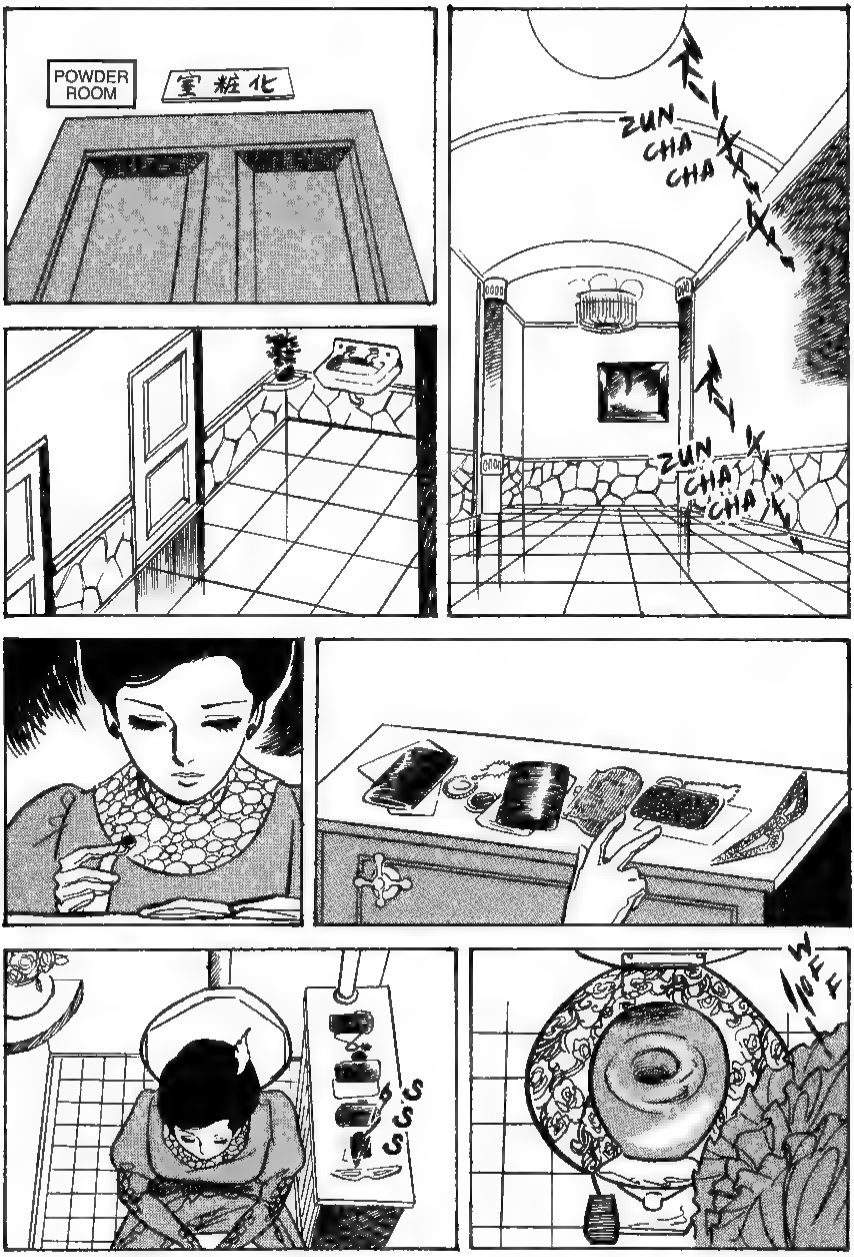
OH! THE ROKUMEIKAN--
THE INDECENT HOUSE OF PROMISCUITY. UNDER THE GREAT BANNER OF REVISING THE TREATIES, NOBLE MEN AND WOMEN DANCED WILDLY EVERY NIGHT. IT TURNED INTO A PLACE WHERE GAMES OF LOVE AND INTRIGUE TOOK PLACE

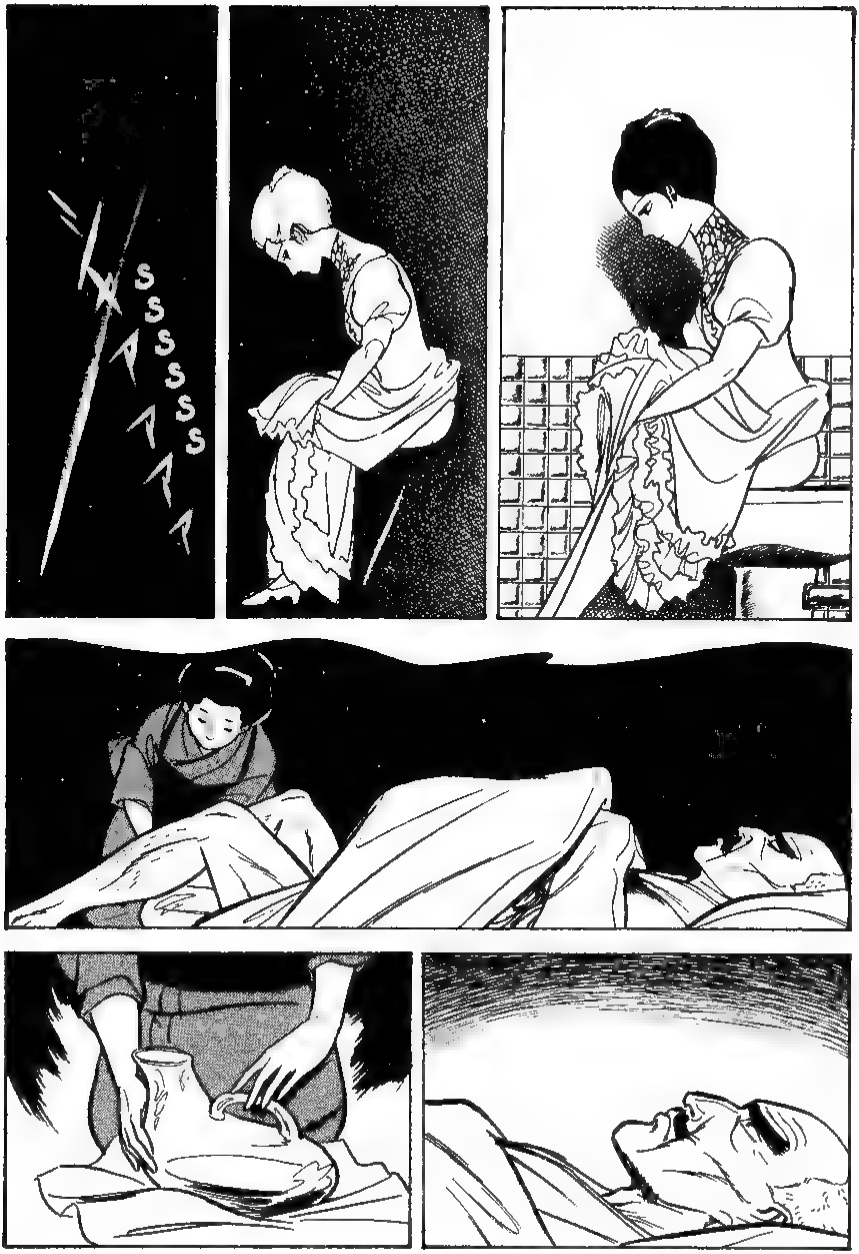

KNOCK

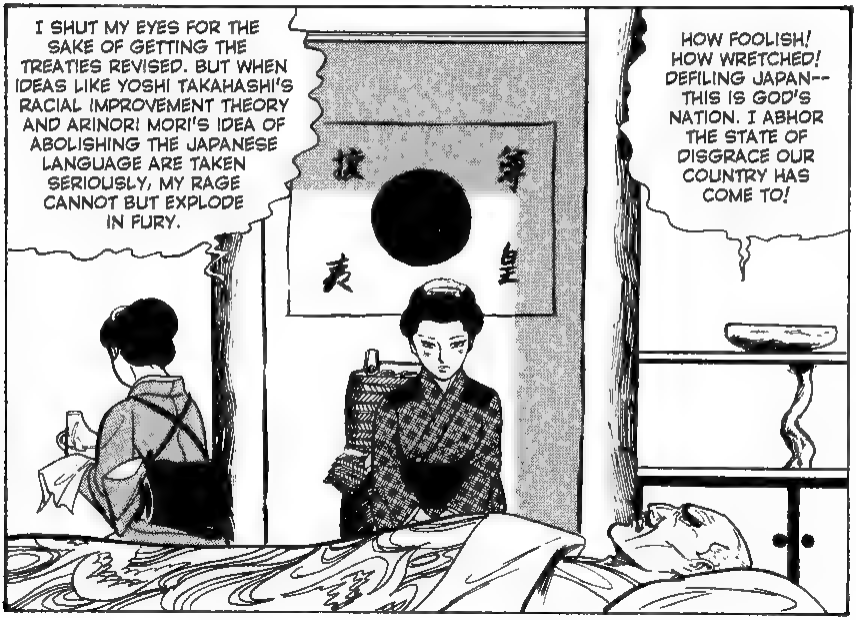

NEIGHH!
AHH

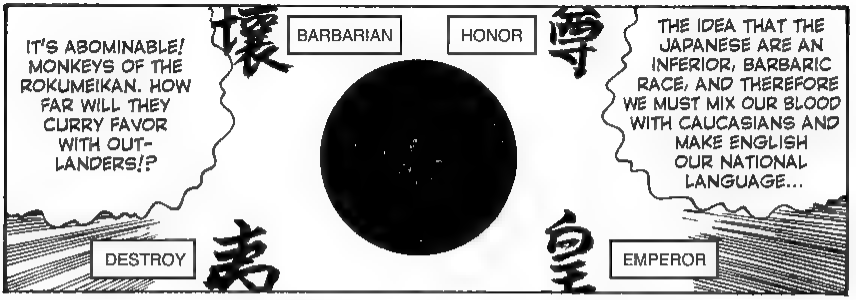
NAMELESS MEN BECAME GOVERNORS AND OFFICERS OVERNIGHT JUST BY LETTING THEIR WIVES AND DAUGHTERS HAVE SEX WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF HIGH STANDING. THEREFORE, NOT ONLY THE HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS BUT ALSO OFFICERS, NOBILITIES, AND BUSINESSMEN SENT THEIR FEMALE FAMILY MEMBERS IN HORDES, STEERING THE GREAT SEX BALL INTO ITS FULL SWING.
FINALLY THE VOICE OF CRITICISM BECAME LOUD ENOUGH, AND HEAVEN DID NOT OVERLOOK THE WRONG-DOERS...
WHILE NOBILITIES WERE HAVING SUCH EROTIC AFFAIRS AT ROKUMEIKAN, THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC WAS MISERABLE. MILITARY EXPANSION BROUGHT INFLATION, AND COMMONERS SUFFERED STARVATION.
THE FUNNY THING IS, THESE GREAT SEX BALLS WERE CALLED CHARITY EVENTS OUT OF THE FEAR OF WHAT COMMONERS MIGHT SAY.

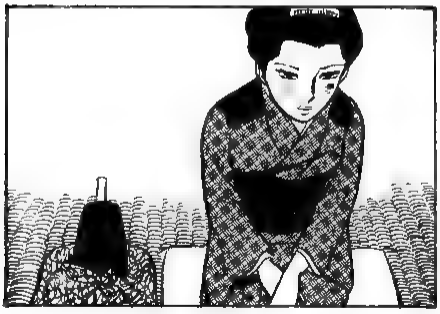
"JAPANESE IN JAPAN"--ART BY SHIZUKATA OHNO


POWDER ROOM
室粧化
ZUN CHA CHA
ZUN CHA CHA
SSSS
WEE!

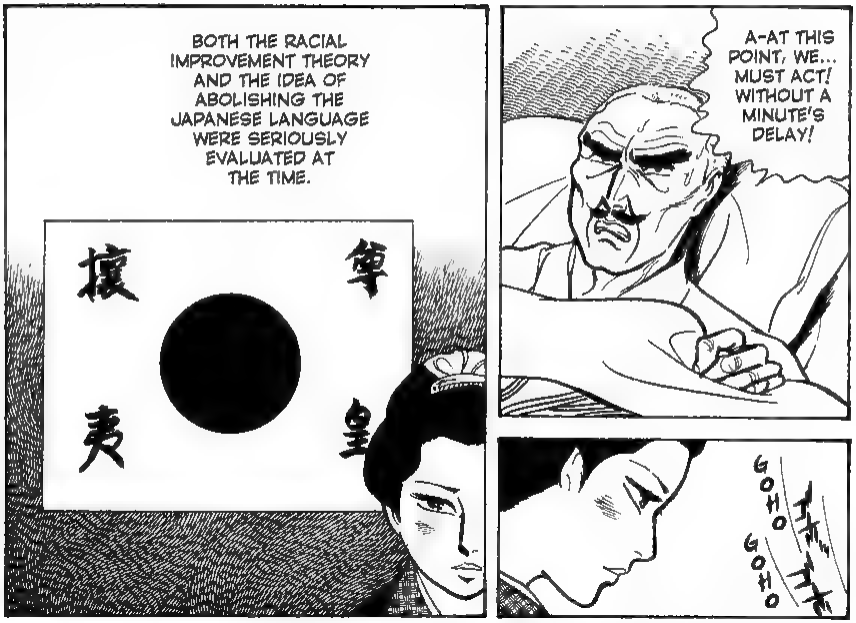

SSSSSSS

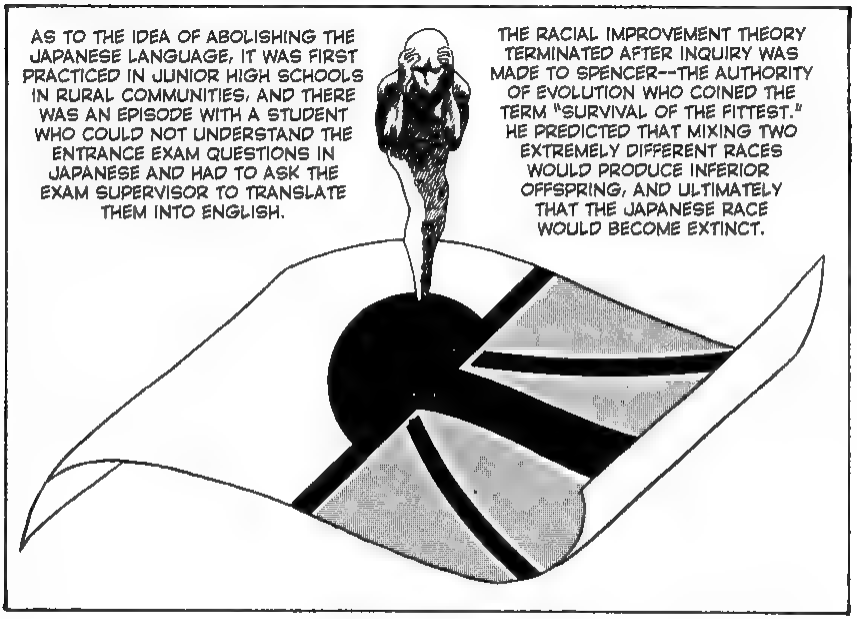

I SHUT MY EYES FOR THE SAKE OF GETTING THE TREATIES REVISED. BUT WHEN IDEAS LIKE YOSHI TAKAHASHI'S RACIAL IMPROVEMENT THEORY AND ARINORI MORI'S IDEA OF ABOLISHING THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, MY RAGE CANNOT BUT EXPLODE IN FURY.
HOW FOOLISH! HOW WRETCHED! DEFILING JAPAN-- THIS IS GOD'S NATION. I ABHOR THE STATE OF DISGRACE OUR COUNTRY HAS COME TO!

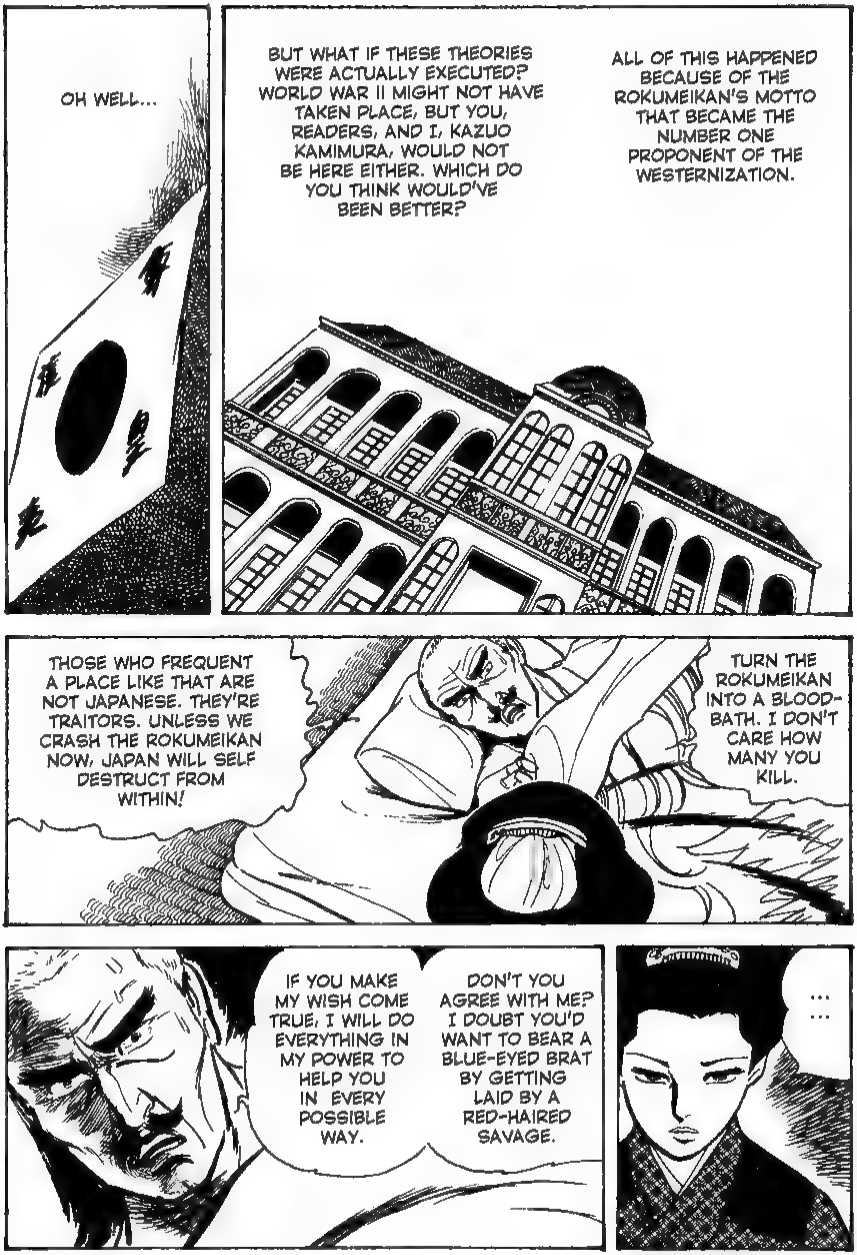

IT'S ABOMINABLE! MONKEYS OF THE ROKUMEIKAN. HOW FAR WILL THEY CURRY FAVOR WITH OUT-LANDERS!?
BARBARIAN
HONOR
THE IDEA THAT THE JAPANESE ARE AN INFERIOR, BARBARIC RACE, AND THEREFORE WE MUST MIX OUR BLOOD WITH CAUCASIANS AND MAKE ENGLISH OUR NATIONAL LANGUAGE...
DESTROY
EMPEROR

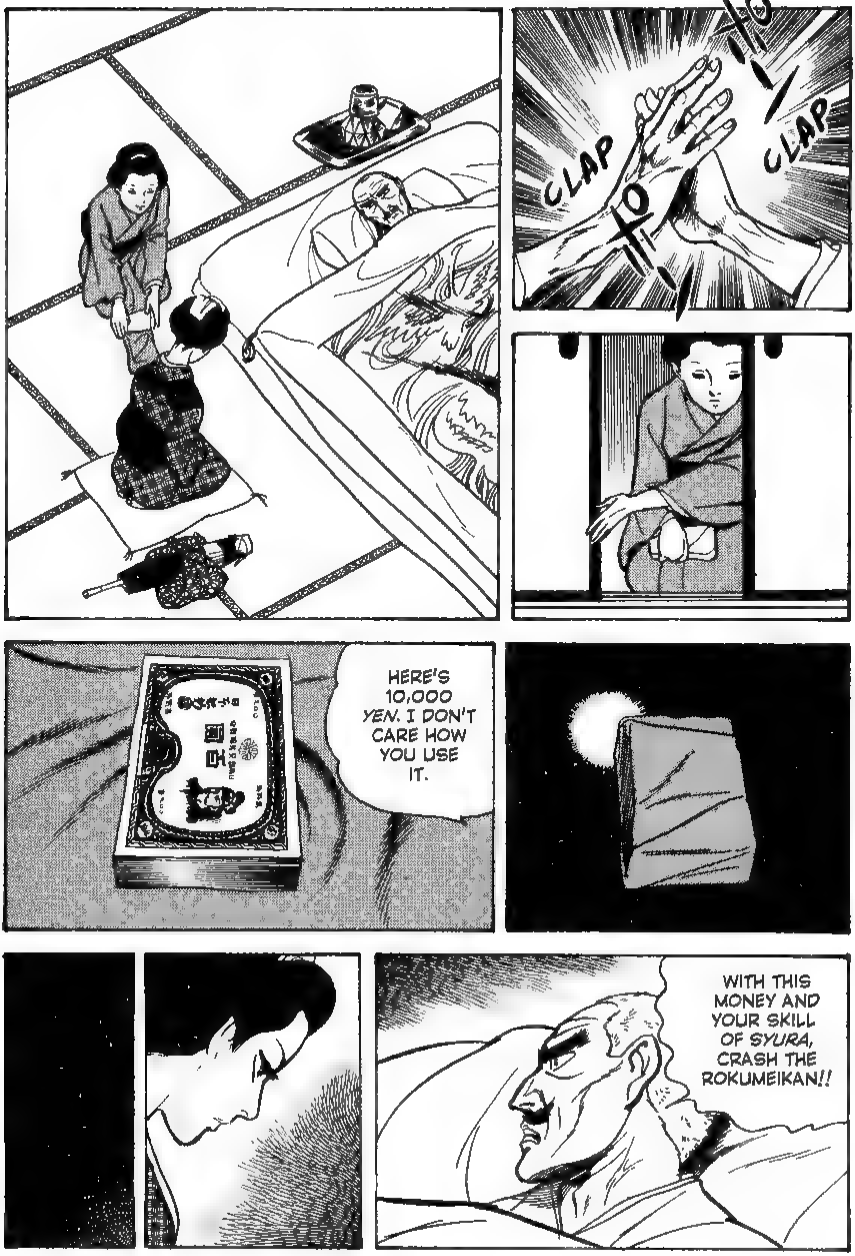


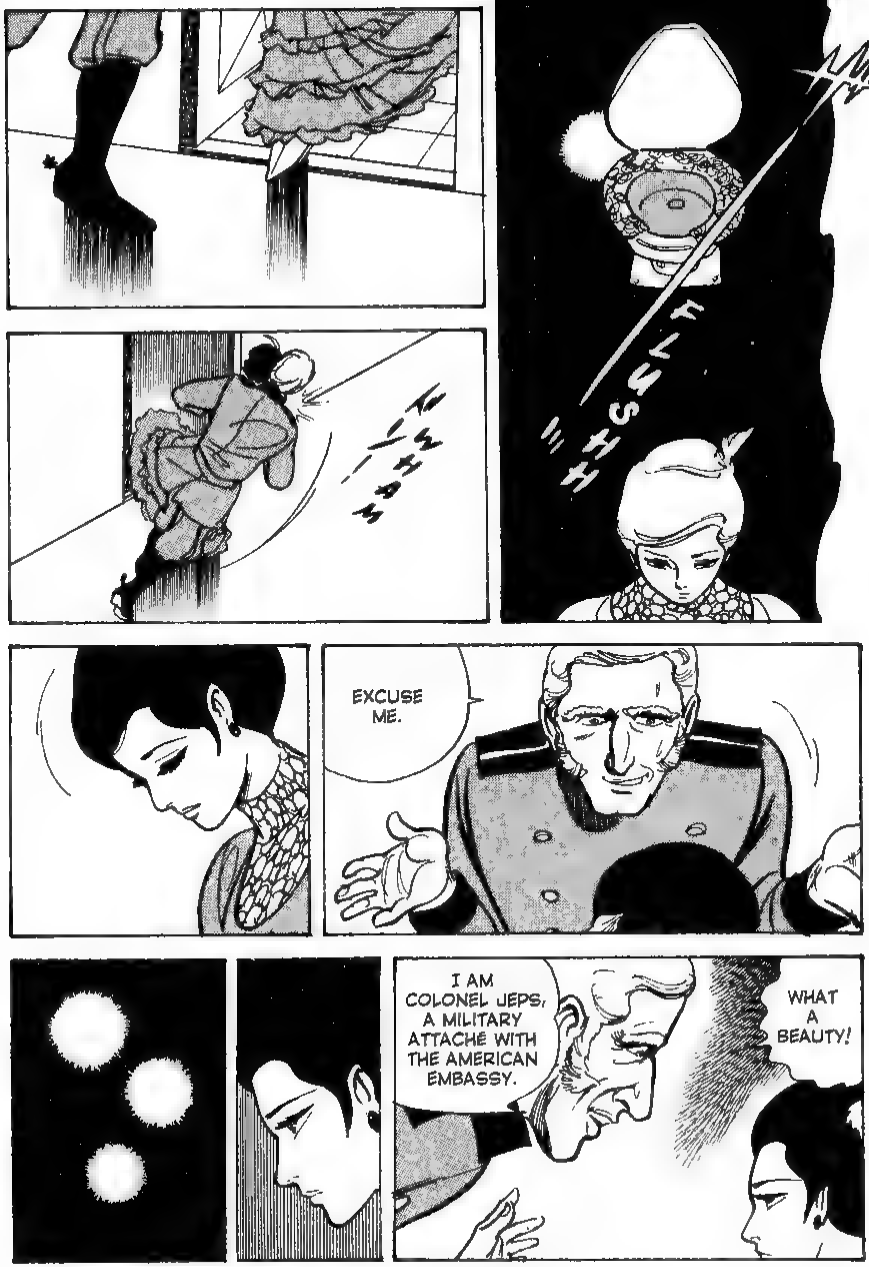
GOHO
GOHO
GOHO


BOTH THE RACIAL IMPROVEMENT THEORY AND THE IDEA OF ABOLISHING THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE WERE SERIOUSLY EVALUATED AT THE TIME.
A-AT THIS POINT, WE... MUST ACT! WITHOUT A MINUTE'S DELAY!
GOHO GOHO


AS TO THE IDEA OF ABOLISHING THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE, IT WAS FIRST PRACTICED IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES, AND THERE WAS AN EPISODE WITH A STUDENT WHO COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE ENTRANCE EXAM QUESTIONS IN JAPANESE AND HAD TO ASK THE EXAM SUPERVISOR TO TRANSLATE THEM INTO ENGLISH.
THE RACIAL IMPROVEMENT THEORY TERMINATED AFTER INQUIRY WAS MADE TO SPENCER--THE AUTHORITY OF EVOLUTION WHO COINED THE TERM "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST." HE PREDICTED THAT MIXING TWO EXTREMELY DIFFERENT RACES WOULD PRODUCE INFERIOR OFFSPRING, AND ULTIMATELY THAT THE JAPANESE RACE WOULD BECOME EXTINCT.

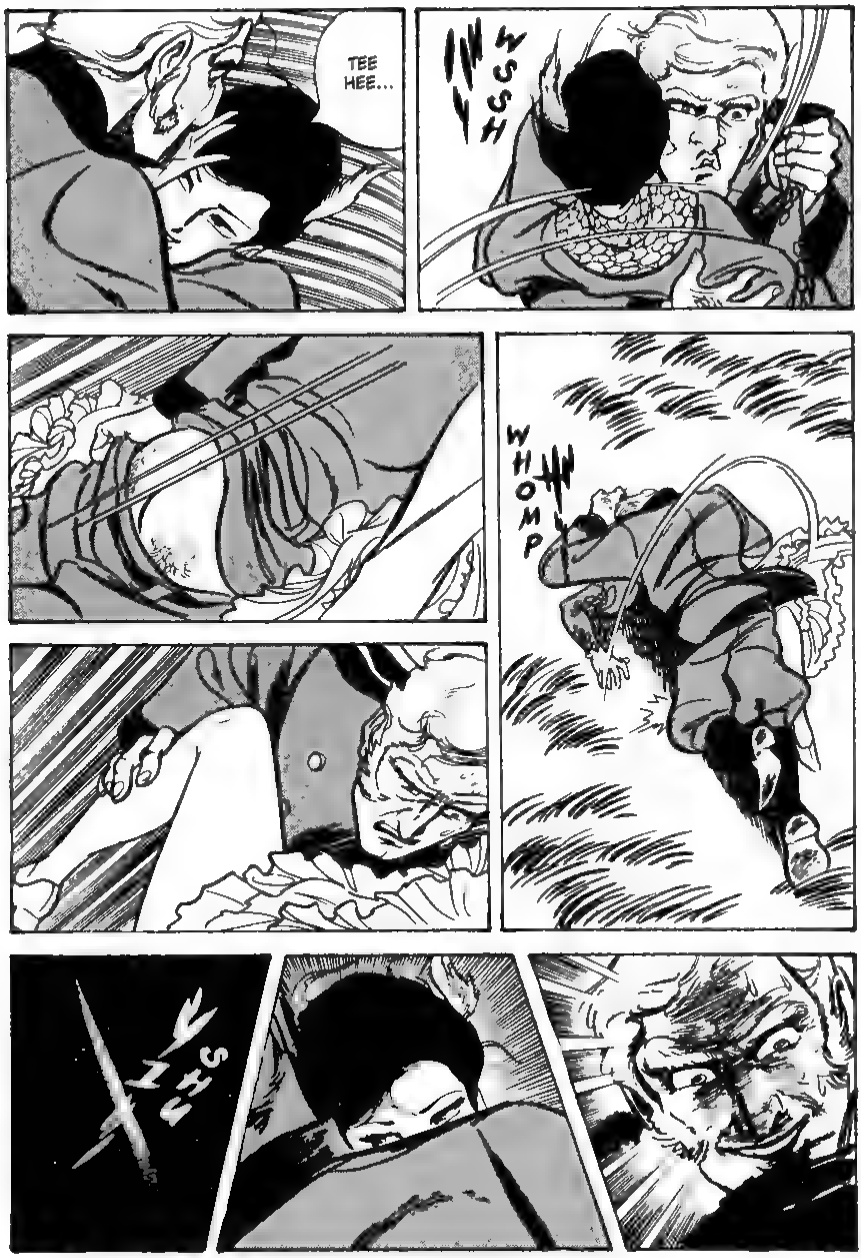

OH WELL...
BUT WHAT IF THESE THEORIES WERE ACTUALLY EXECUTED? WORLD WAR II MIGHT NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE, BUT YOU, READERS, AND I, KAZUO KAMIMURA, WOULD NOT BE HERE EITHER. WHICH DO YOU THINK WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER?
ALL OF THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE OF THE ROKUMEIKAN'S MOTTO THAT BECAME THE NUMBER ONE PROPONENT OF THE WESTERNIZATION.
THOSE WHO FREQUENT A PLACE LIKE THAT ARE NOT JAPANESE. THEY'RE TRAITORS. UNLESS WE CRASH THE ROKUMEIKAN NOW, JAPAN WILL SELF DESTRUCT FROM WITHIN!
TURN THE ROKUMEIKAN INTO A BLOOD-BATH. I DON'T CARE HOW MANY YOU KILL.
IF YOU MAKE MY WISH COME TRUE, I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO HELP YOU IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY.
DON'T YOU AGREE WITH ME? I DOUBT YOU'D WANT TO BEAR A BLUE-EYED BRAT BY GETTING LAID BY A RED-HAIRED SAVAGE.
...
...


CLAP
CLAP
HERE'S 10,000 YEN. I DON'T CARE HOW YOU USE IT.
WITH THIS MONEY AND YOUR SKILL OF SYURA, CRASH THE ROKUMEIKAN!!


FLUSH!!!
EXCUSE ME.
I AM COLONEL JEPS, A MILITARY ATTACHÉ WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.
WHAT A BEAUTY!

ZUN CHA CHA
ZUN CHA CHA
ZUN CHA CHA
TEE HEE HEE...
ZUN CHA CHA

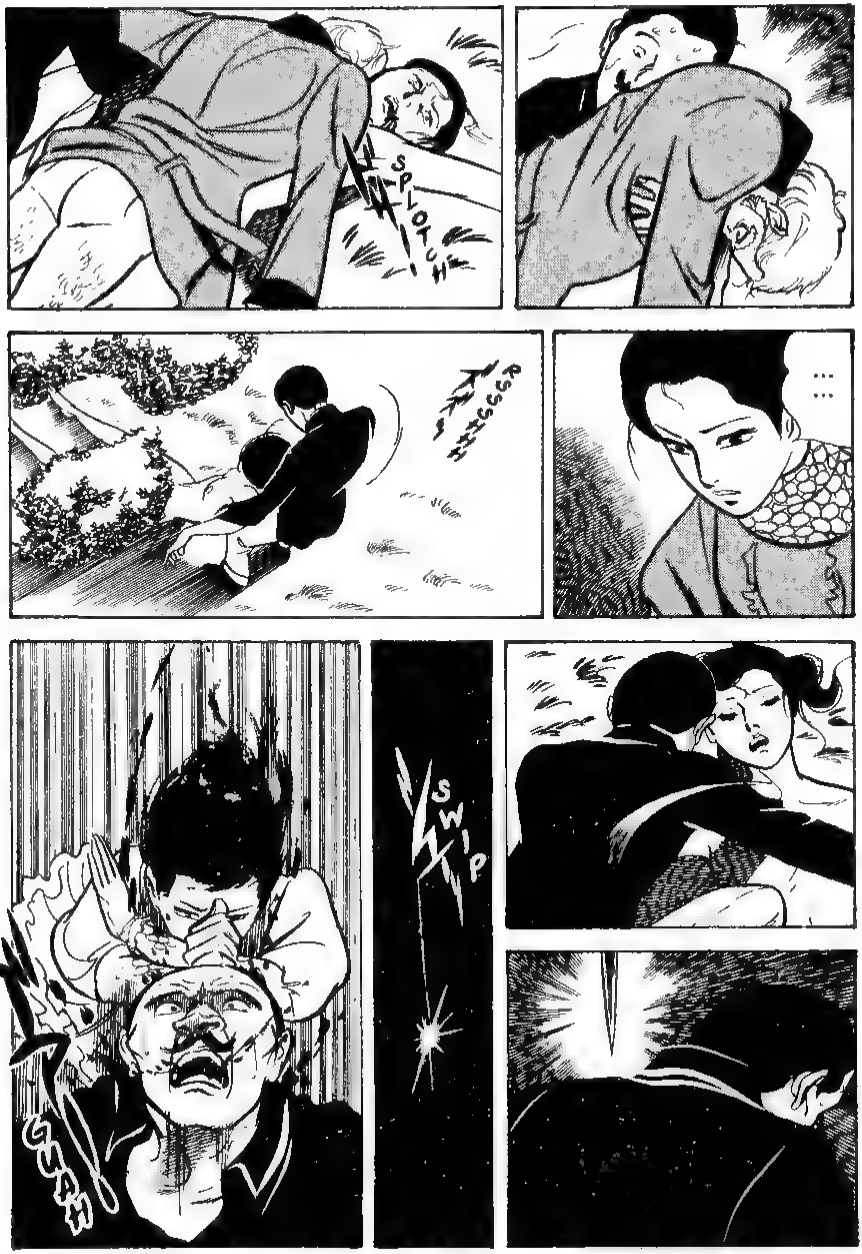
ZUN
CHA
CHA
ZUN
CHA
CHA
ZUN
CHA
CHA
ZUN
CHA
CHA

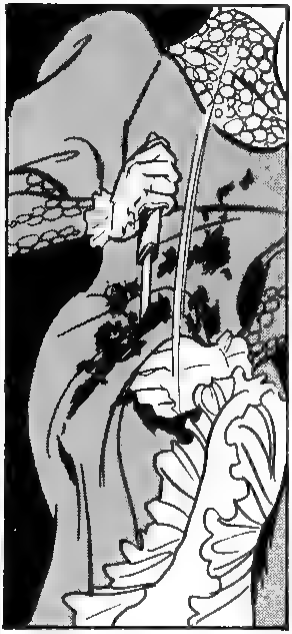

TEE HEE...
WSSH
WHOMP

UGUH
HH

UOHHH

TWEET
THUD
RUSTLE

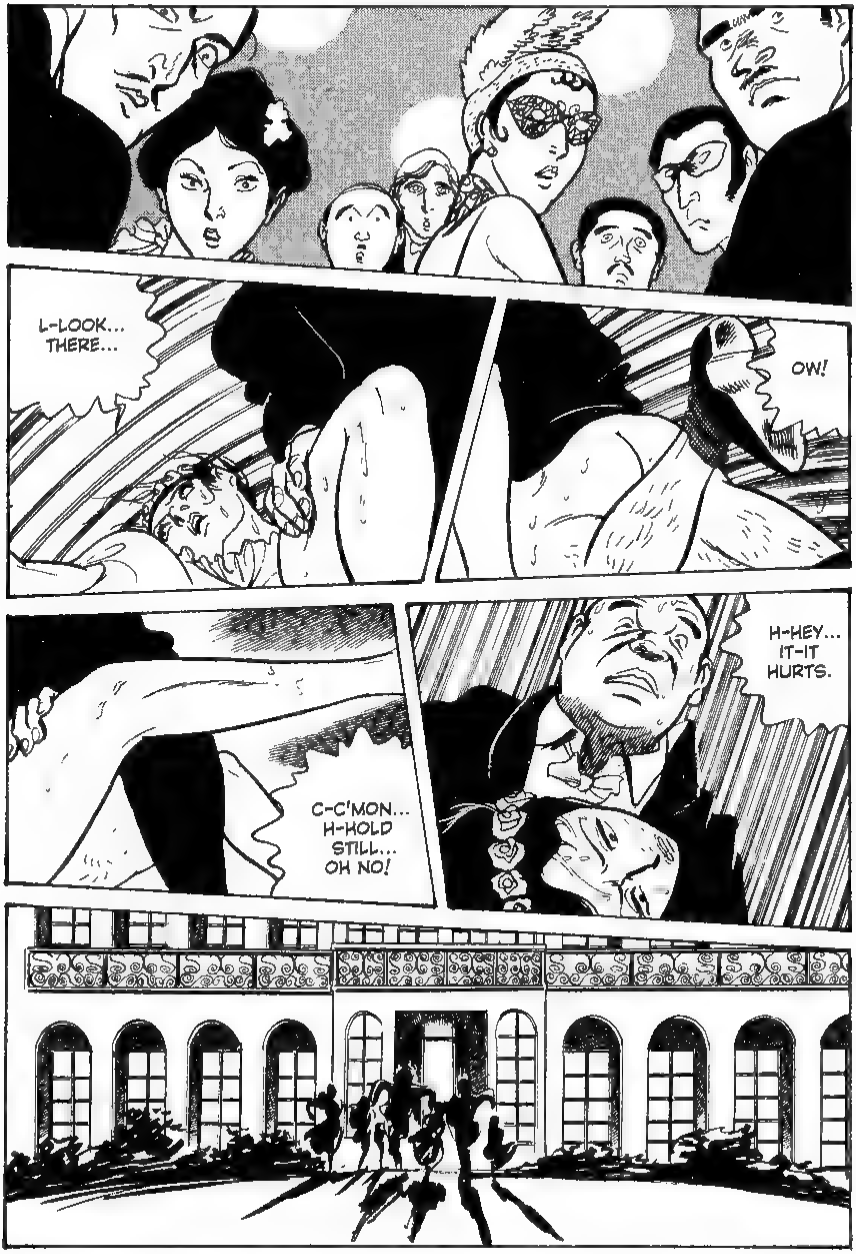

SPLOTCH!
RSSSH
...
SWIP
GNAH



TEE HEE HEE, HEE HEE
OH DEAR YOUR HIGHNESS
I-I LIKE THIS
Y-YOUR HIGHNESS IT'S EXCELLENT AHH

...
...?!
UNLIKE KIMONOS, WESTERN CLOTHES MAKE IT SO EASY.
PRETTY BUSY NIGHT, IT SEEMS.
SOME-ONE'S HERE AHEAD OF US.

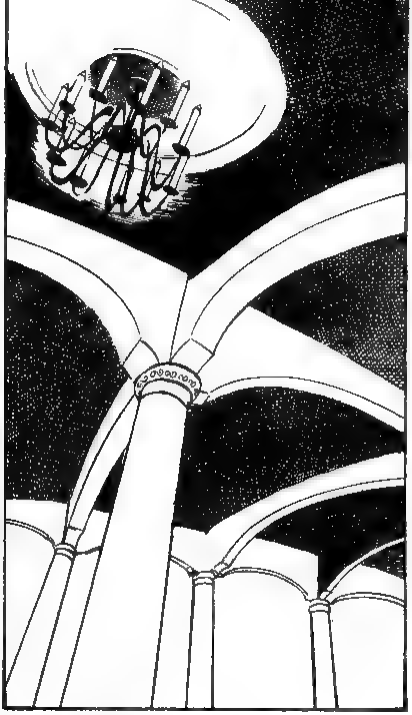
?!
AHH... Y-YOUR HIGHNESS... AHH!! HM?
KYAAAHHH
A--

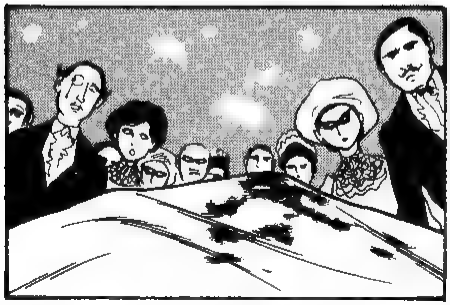

L-LOOK... THERE...
OW!
H-HEY... IT-IT HURTS.
C-C'MON... H-HOLD STILL... OH NO!

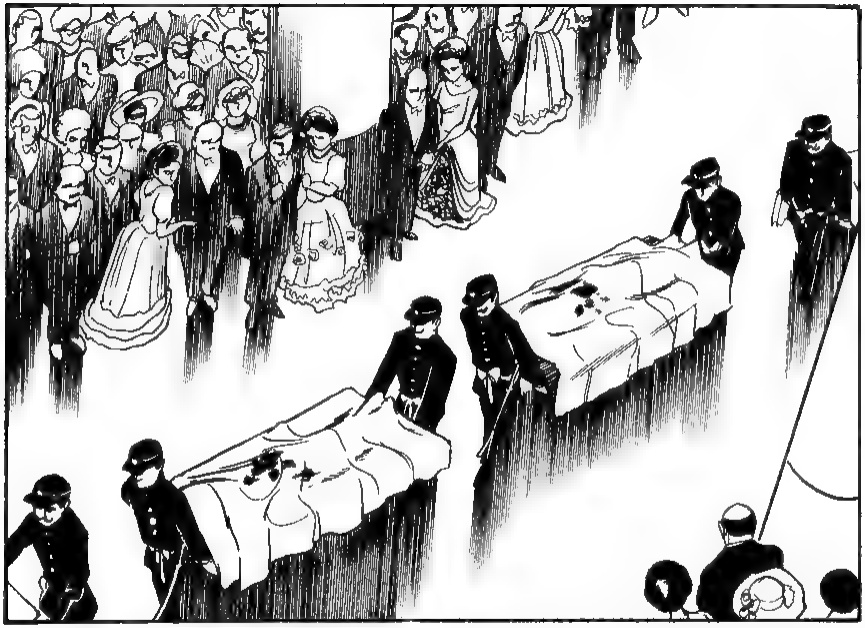
WHAT'S THE MATTER, YOUR HIGHNESS?
OH DEAR... YOUR HIGHNESS, IT WAS YOU.
OH NO. HURRY AND HELP HIS HIGHNESS.
UH...I-I CAN'T PULL OUT... YOU KNOW.
...
...

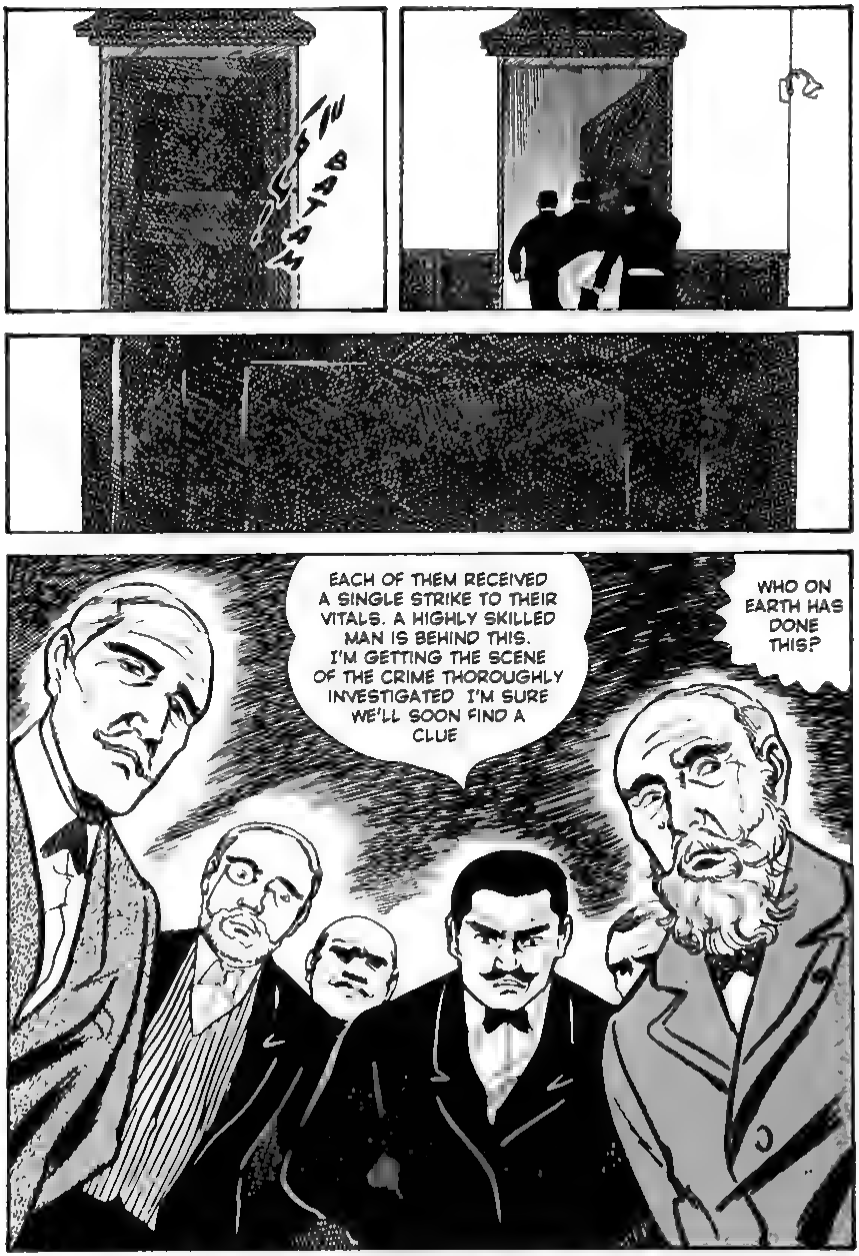
WHOA!
NO!
UHHH...
AIEE!

WH-
WHAT
THE...
CALL
THE
GUARDS!
CAPTAIN,
WHAT
IS--
TA
TA
TA
TA








BATAM
EACH OF THEM RECEIVED A SINGLE STRIKE TO THEIR VITALS. A HIGHLY SKILLED MAN IS BEHIND THIS. I'M GETTING THE SCENE OF THE CRIME THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED I'M SURE WE'LL SOON FIND A CLUE
WHO ON EARTH HAS DONE THIS?

THIS PLACE IS ALREADY GOSSIPED ABOUT. WE'D BETTER KEEP THIS INCIDENT STRICTLY SECRET NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!
IT'S BAD. REALLY BAD. IF THIS GETS OUT IT'LL BE THE END OF US.
YES. SAY, COLONEL JEPS DIED OF A DOUBLE SUICIDE AFTER AN EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIR. I BELIEVE IT WILL HELP KEEP THE MATTER QUIET.
HMM. IT'S LUCKY YOU WERE HERE, CAPTAIN. CAN YOU THINK OF A GOOD WAY OUT?
SOUNDS GOOD.
THAT SOUNDS GOOD. IF IT'S A DOUBLE SUICIDE, IT IMPLIES AN EMBARRASSMENT ON HIS PART. I'M SURE THE AMERICANS WOULD NOT WANT THIS TO BECOME PUBLIC.

FOR THE TIME BEING, LET'S MAINTAIN THAT THE TODA FAMILY'S COACHMAN WAS MADLY IN LOVE WITH THEIR DAUGHTER. AFTER HE MURDERED HER, HE KILLED HIMSELF. WE CAN GLOSS THINGS OVER LIKE THAT WHILE WE FURTHER INVESTIGATE THE MATTER.
YES, SIR.
MAKE SURE TO LOOK INTO ANY HIDDEN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MIGHT HAVE LED TO THIS.
COME IN!
KNOCK KNOCK

WHO'S THAT WENCH?
SHE SAYS SHE WITNESSED THE MURDER.
SIR, WE FOUND HER HIDING IN THE GARDENS.
WHAT?
?!
OH MY GOD!

WHAT THE HELL!?
Y-YOU. IT WAS YOU, YOU BASTARDS! YOU FLOCKED TO KILL 'EM!
I'M SAYING, LOUD AND CLEAR, YOU KILLED 'EM ALL. I SAW IT! I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES!
AND YOU TOO!
AND YOU!
YOU!
I SAW IT! WITH MY OWN EYES!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS WOMAN?

IT'S NOT NON-SENSE!
YOU KILLED 'EM!
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES!
WH-WHAT NON-SENSE!
YOU BASTARDS KILLED 'EM.
BUT I SAW IT. I'M NOT LYING. I HAVE PROOF!
H-HEY, STOP IT. WHO DO YOU THINK THEY ARE? DON'T YOU KNOW HE'S OUR PRIME MINISTER?
WHAT?

YOU, TOO DROPPED *MANJU*.
YOU DROPPED YOUR *MANJU*.
MANJU... YOU MEAN, MY POCKET WATCH?
AND YOU DROPPED A SQUARE TOWEL WITH YOUR NAME STITCHED ON IT.
YOU DROPPED 'EM WHEN YOU MURDERED 'EM!

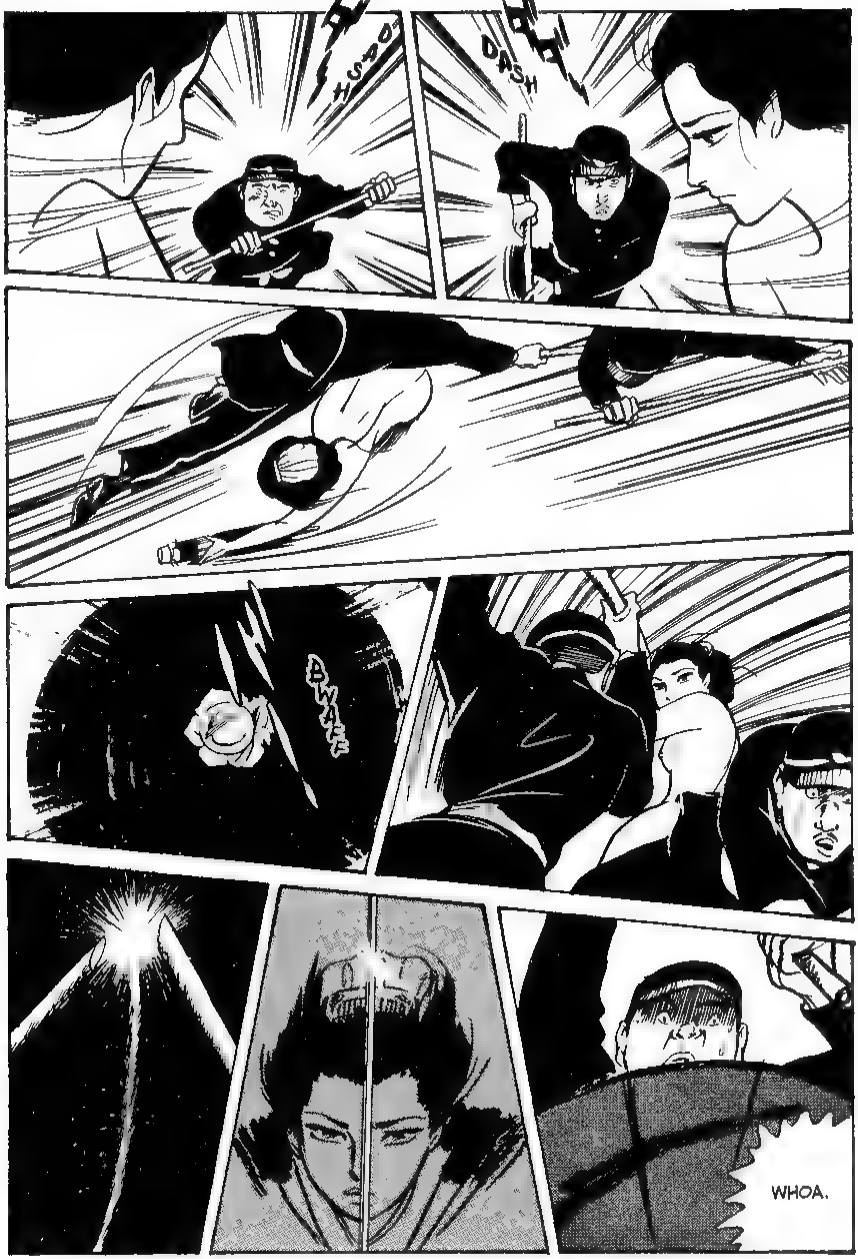
AND YOU! YOU DROPPED AN IVORY BUTTON.
MM...MY HANDKER-CHIEF EMBROIDERED WITH MY INITIALS...
HUH? MY CUFF LINK...
I'VE GOT THE PROOF! YOU KILLED 'EM!

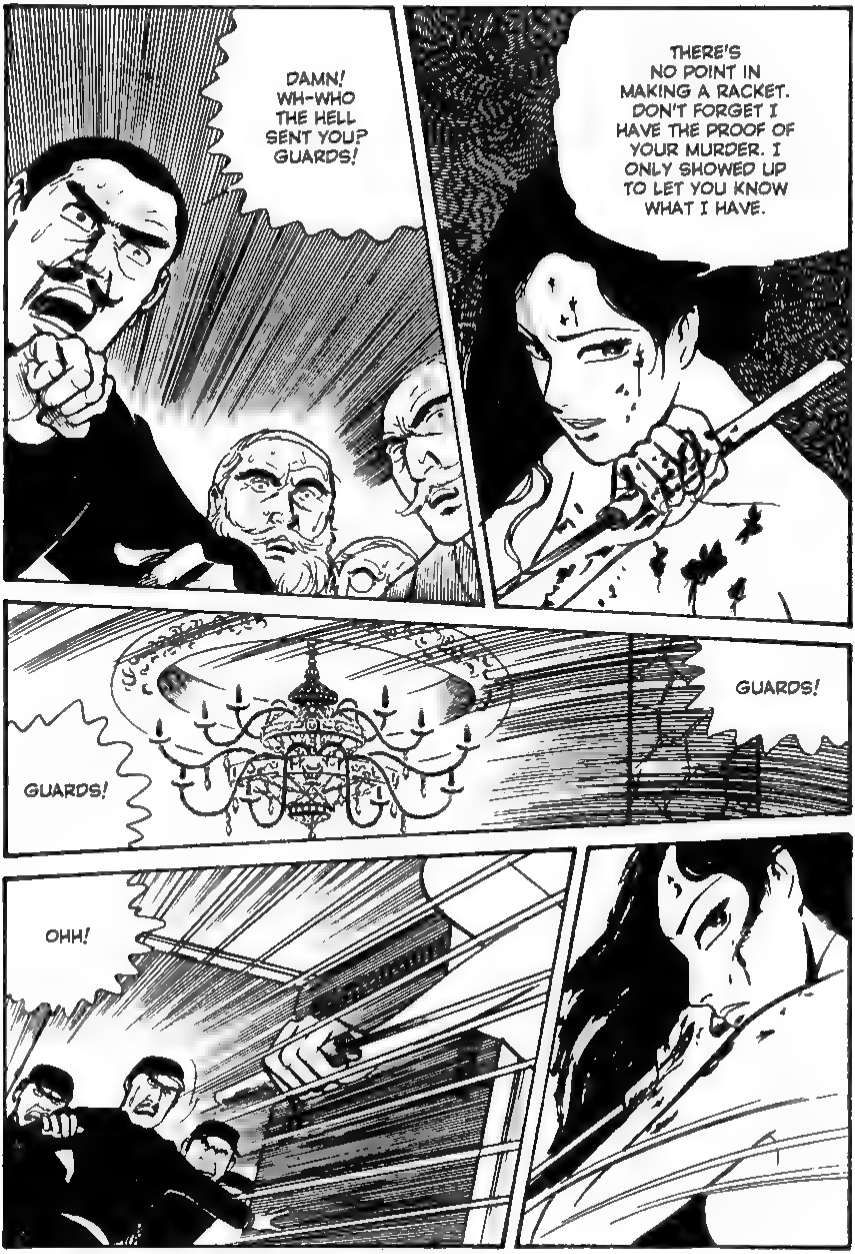
Y-YOU BITCH! WHAT NONSENSE!
YOU MURDERED 'EM! I SAW IT! LOOK, YOU DON'T HAVE 'EM, DO YOU? 'CAUSE YOU DROPPED 'EM! I HAVE 'EM! I'VE GOT THE PROOF!

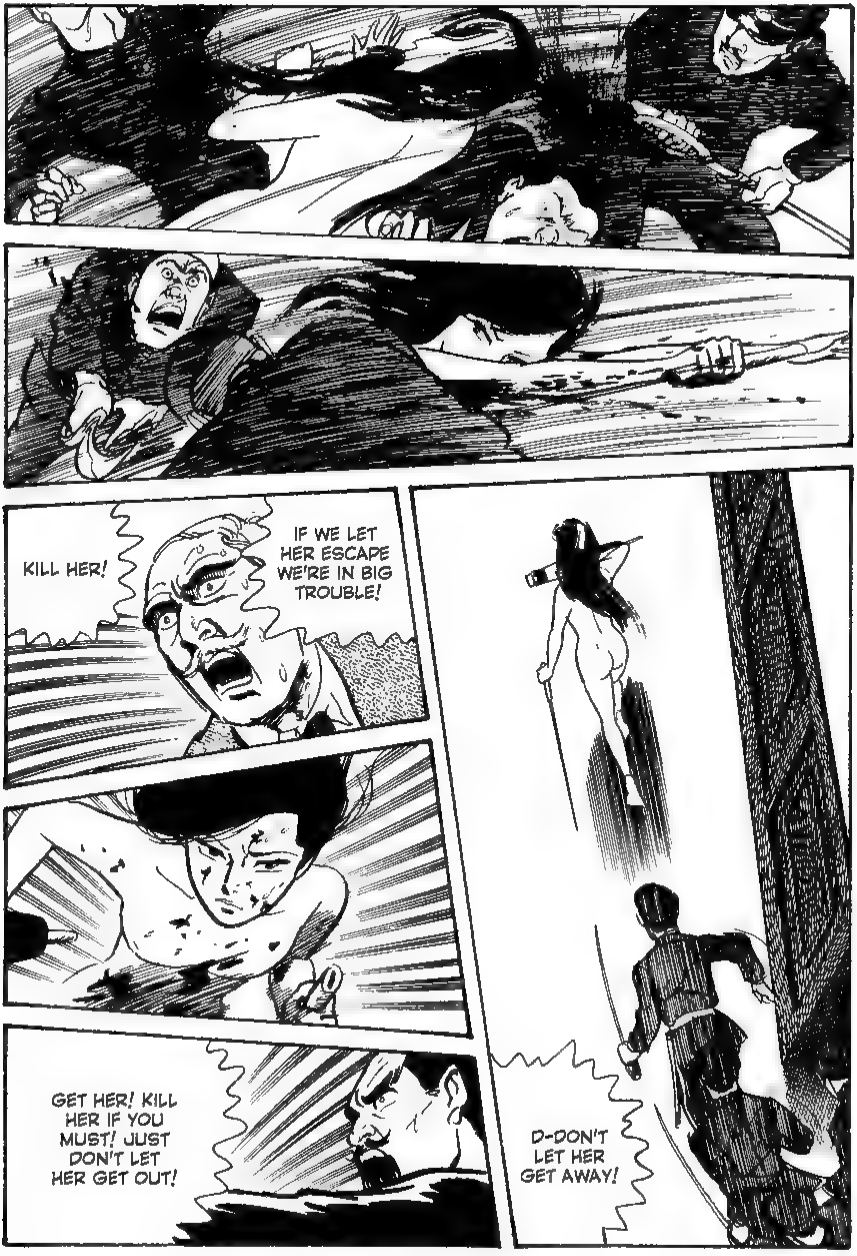
I'VE GOT THE MANJU AND THE BUTTON. YOU DROPPED 'EM. THEY'RE MY PROOF!
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!
MM...
MMM...TH-THAT POCKET WATCH WAS A GIFT FROM... HIS MAJESTY... MM...
AN EMBLEM OF PRECIOUS CHRYSANTHEMUM IS CARVED ON THE MANJU. YOU'LL BE PUNISHED FOR DROPPING SOMETHING LIKE THAT AT A SCENE OF YOUR CRIME.
BWAE

NOT IN HERE!
D-DAMN!
I HID 'EM PROPERLY. AHA HA HA.
AHA HA HA HA. 'COURSE NOT! I DIDN'T PUT 'EM THERE.
SWISH
WHISH

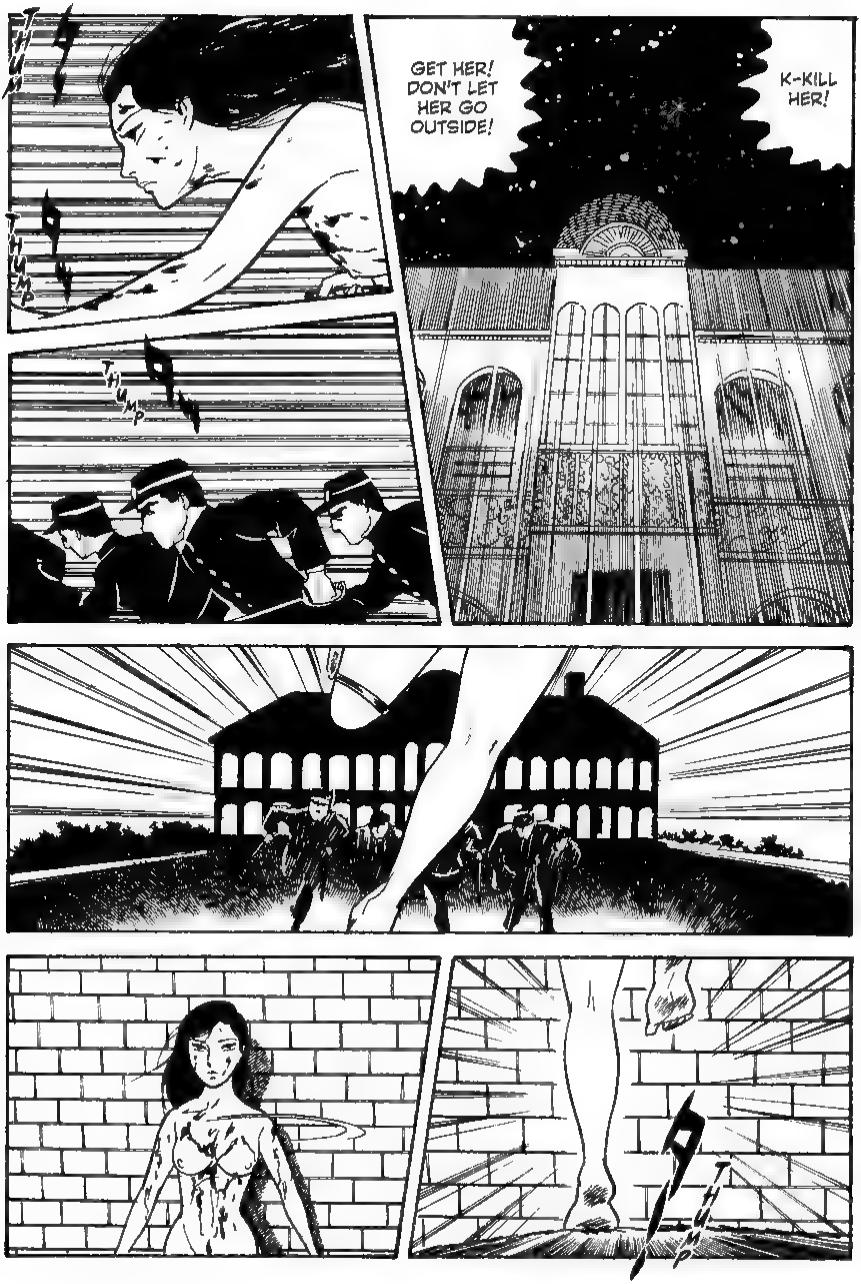
OH!
WH-WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?
A-ARREST HER! WE'LL INVESTIGATE HER THOROUGHLY.
I'M OYUKI FROM UWAMURA OF BINGO MITSUGI-GUN.

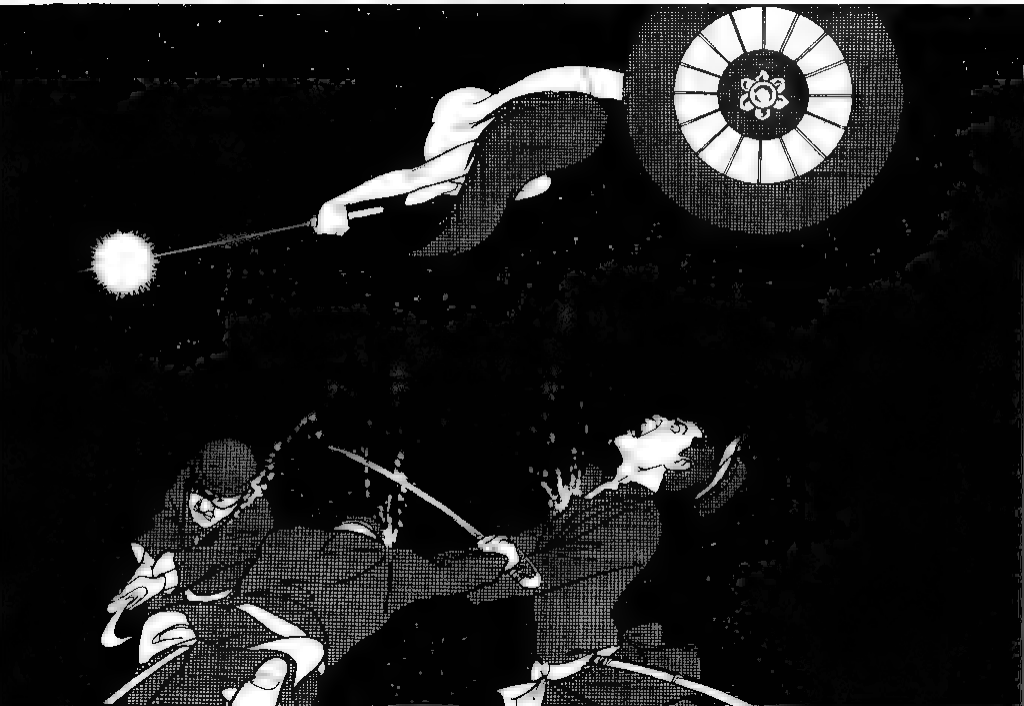

DASH
DASH
BWAH
WHOA.


DAMN! WH-WHO THE HELL SENT YOU? GUARDS!
THERE'S NO POINT IN MAKING A RACKET. DON'T FORGET I HAVE THE PROOF OF YOUR MURDER. I ONLY SHOWED UP TO LET YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVE.
GUARDS!
GUARDS!
OHH!

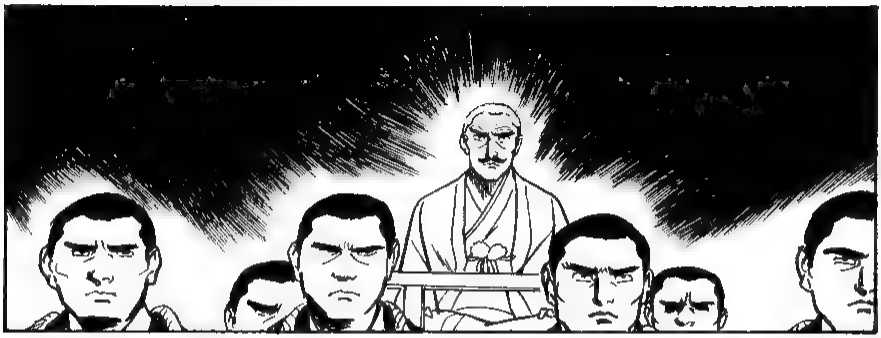

KILL HER!
IF WE LET HER ESCAPE WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!
GET HER! KILL HER IF YOU MUST! JUST DON'T LET HER GET OUT!
D-DON'T LET HER GET AWAY!

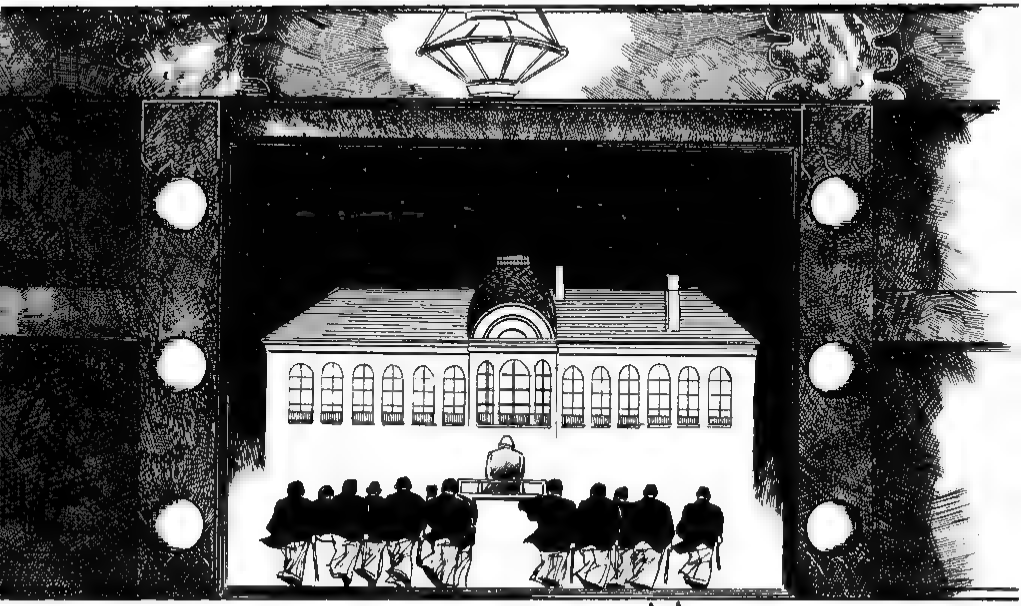
WAAH!
あ
あ
AAH!

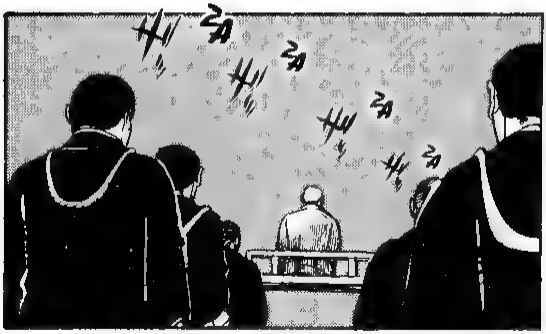

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
GET HER! DON'T LET HER GO OUTSIDE!
K-KILL HER!
THUMP



KAPLAM!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TIME TO PUT THE FINAL NAIL IN THE ROKUMEIKAN MURDER PANORAMA. HEH HEH HEH HEH.
UH...



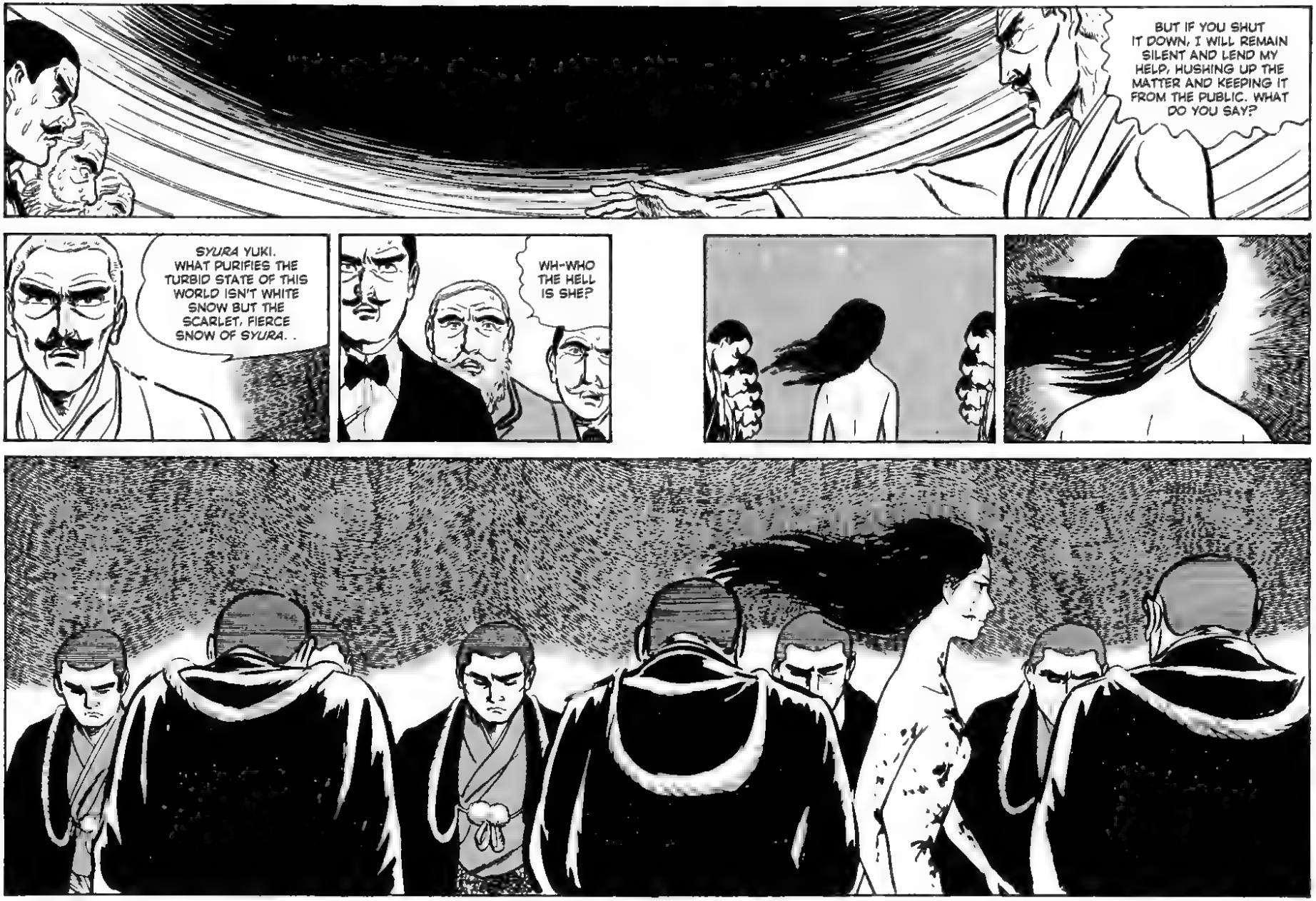


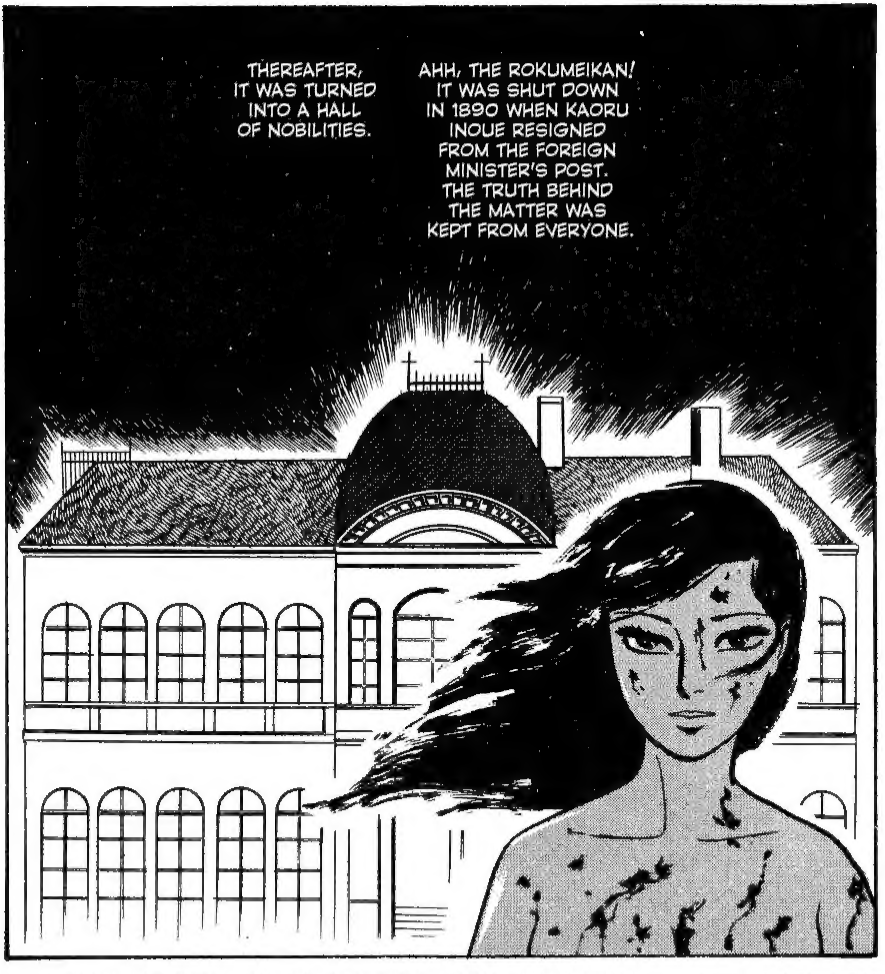

ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA

ZA

M-MR. ISHIZAKA...
UHMM... IT'S SHOZO ISHIZAKA...
G-GENBU PARTY FOR THE CONSTITUTION.
...
...
...
...

IT WAS YOU! YOU WERE THE ONE PULLING THE STRINGS...
MR. INOUE... YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CLOSE THE ROKU-MEIKAN.
SHUT DOWN THE ROKUMEIKAN IMMEDIATELY! OTHERWISE, I WILL REPORT THIS RACKET AT THE UPCOMING FIRST MEETING OF THE IMPERIAL ASSEMBLY AND DEMAND THE RESIG-NATION OF HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LIKE ALL OF YOU!
THAT'S WHY I FORCED MYSELF OUT OF MY SICKBED TO COME HERE.
PULLING THE STRINGS? I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE BRAND OF FOREIGN POLICY YOU KEEP WILL DESTROY JAPAN.
UHH...


BUT IF YOU SHUT IT DOWN, I WILL REMAIN SILENT AND LEND MY HELP, HUSHING UP THE MATTER AND KEEPING IT FROM THE PUBLIC. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
SYURA YUKI. WHAT PURIFIES THE TURBID STATE OF THIS WORLD ISN'T WHITE SNOW BUT THE SCARLET, FIERCE SNOW OF SYURA. .
WH-WHO THE HELL IS SHE?


THEREAFTER, IT WAS TURNED INTO A HALL OF NOBILITIES.
AHH, THE ROKUMEIKAN! IT WAS SHUT DOWN IN 1890 WHEN KAORU INOUE RESIGNED FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S POST. THE TRUTH BEHIND THE MATTER WAS KEPT FROM EVERYONE.

■ROKUMEIKAN MURDER PANORAMA / THE END■

bodhisattva

Bodhisattva is an enlightened being who, out of compassion, forgoes nirvana in order to save others.

daimon

Similar to a family crest or emblem, except that it belongs to a gangster family. Each gangster family has a unique daimon.

Ezo

The archaic name of Hokkaido.

gambling

When the numbers of two dice add up to an even number, it's "han." When the numbers of two dice add up to an odd number, it's "chou."

genbu

A turtle god. The turtle is a symbol of longevity and wisdom, associated with high-ranking officials.

Kaoru Inoue

Japanese statesman, 1835-1915. He was a leader of the anti-foreign movement in his native Choshu fief, and helped set fire to the British legation in Edo (now Tokyo) in 1862. He changed his views after studying in England (1863) with Hirobumi Ito, and returned to urge Westernization and overthrow of the shogunate. After the Meiji restoration, he was influential in reorganizing government finances on modern lines, especially in the reform of the land tax system. As foreign minister (1885-87), his failure to negotiate a revision of the unequal treaties and his unpopular Westernizing influence forced him to resign. Later he served as home minister and as finance minister under Ito.

Hirobumi Ito

A Japanese politician who helped draft the constitution of 1889 and served as the prime minister (1885-1888, 1892-1896, 1898, and 1900-1901).

jinriksha

A small, two-wheeled carriage drawn by one or two persons. Also *rickshaw* or *ricksha*.

Kamatari

Fujiwara no Kamatari (614-669 A.D.) was the founder of the great Fujiwara clan that dominated Japan from the ninth to the twelfth centuries.

manju

A Japanese sweet cake.

GLOSSARY

Arinori Mori

One of the most influential and iconoclastic proponents of Western ideas in Japan during the late nineteenth century. Mori developed an early interest in Western studies, and in 1865 he was among the first Japanese to go abroad (to the University of London) for an education. He returned to Japan after the Meiji restoration in 1868. He became the first Japanese minister of education and culture in 1885. In a time when politicians and academics were pushing language reform to make learning Japanese easier, Mori suggested going so far as to drop Japanese altogether and adopt English as the national language.

mukoujima

Mukou means "opposite side" and *jima* means "island."

oyabun

The head of a yakuza family. "Oyabun" means father.

rokumeikan

The rokumeikan was the elaborate social hall in Tokyo that opened in 1893. It was the scene of charity bazaars, musicals, and dances.

ryo

An old monetary unit before *yen* was introduced. When yen was introduced, one ryo was exchanged to one yen.

ryounkaku

Ryounkaku was built in 1890 in Asakusa and later collapsed in the 1923 earthquake. This building, said to have been modeled on the Eiffel tower, was a showcase for the newest science, technology, and cultural trends.

sen

1 sen is 1/100 of 1 yen.

yahsa

Yahsa is a vampire bat from Japanese mythology. It is believed that it is the spirit of a woman whose anger lowered her status in rebirth.

GRAPHIC NOVEL/MANGA

THE DEEP-SEATED GRUDGE PT. 1

She spells out revenge with strokes of gushing blood. Her name is Yuki, Japanese for "snow." Born to be a child of hell, walking a path of vengeance for crimes committed against the family she never met, Lady Snowblood will prevail. For the price of one thousand yen, she works as a master assassin, with a blade and her wits as weapons. It's a time of change, of modern culture pressing on archaic Edo, but in Lady Snowblood's mind, the old tradition of a bloody grudge lives on.

Kazuo Koike, creator of the famous samurai manga *Lone Wolf and Cub*, returns with yet another tale of revenge, set in a slightly more advanced city of Edo, and featuring a female assassin of skill and dedication nearly equivalent to her predecessor, Ogami Itto. Expertly drawn by Kazuo Kamimura, *Lady Snowblood* is a sexy, violent tale, full of action, social commentary, and snippets of history.

This graphic novel is translated into English, but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published in Japan.

LADY SNOW BLOOD

修羅雪姫

PRESENTED BY KAZUO KOIKE & KAZUO KAMIMURA

www.darkhorse.com

DARK HORSE MANGA